

**Social equity and Sustainability for the immigrant communities in the UK
planning system: A Study on South Asian immigrants.**

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Reazul Ahsan', is displayed on a light gray rectangular background.

Reazul Ahsan

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ABSTRACT

The concomitant global economy minimizes the world's boundary and opens the international borders for the immigrants to get better life and economic solvency. Not only the better employment opportunities, rather global political unrest, better social security and recently added the climate changing process also act as push factors to increase the international migration especially from the developing to the developed nations. On the contemporary the modern planning system are straggling hard to achieve the goal of sustainable development, where the development process can introduce a sustainable, innovative and productive economy with equal employment opportunities, promotes the social inclusion issues, like housing, education, health for the present generation and the future.

In the year 2007 about 422,100 foreign workers around the world migrate to the UK, among them 145,000 (34%) are from Asian countries mainly India, Pakistan and Bangladesh. Those migrant communities are the part of the current planning system and they required all the services and facilities that are promised to be provided to all the citizens to the UK under the current planning policy. The Planning Policy Statement (PPS1), sets a clear overarching of the UK current planning policy to ensure sustainability. Furthermore the White Paper and the Local Development Framework (LDF) have a clear statement and policy approaches for the city councils and the planning authorities to ensure equity at the local level and to incorporator the community at the planning and decision making system. Therefore a field based study has conducted both in Manchester and Trafford City Councils, where a large number for residents are South Asian immigrant communities as well as two of the councils have long term social equity strategic plan for their community members. The aim of the study is to identify how the city councils are working to ensure equity and what are the limitations, at the same time assess the respondents' opinion to get their views as a resident and receive and consume the service facilities provided under the current planning system to meet the goal of sustainability.

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List of Abbreviation.

BME	Black and Minority Ethnic community.
DCLG	Department of Community and Local Government.
HSMP	High Skill Migration Policy
ISE	Institute of Sustainable Environment.
LDF	Local Development Framework.
LSP	Local Strategic Partnership.
MCC	Manchester City Council.
PCSD	President's Council on Sustainable Development.
PPS	Planning Policy Statement.
SCS	Sustainable Community Strategies.
TCC	Trafford City Council.
UK	United Kingdom.

Chapter 1. Introduction.

1.1 Introduction

Globalization and concomitant economic changes minimize the world boundary and open the international borders for skilled, semi-skilled and non-skilled immigrants to get a better life and economic solvency. Over the decades the migration rate especially from the developing nations to the developed nations has increased at an alarming rate. The immigrant communities used to migrate to those nations or countries where they felt they could have better opportunities including, jobs, education and social security support. The developed countries have to address the rapid urbanization process and immigrant communities in their planning policies to ensure sustainable development and to support the continuous economic growth. Now the challenges is to identify either the planning policy or system of a country can ensure social equity for the migrant communities or the ethnic minorities to ensure social sustainability when all the planning approaches are moving towards sustainability.

In the year 2007 about 422,100 foreign workers around the world migrate to the UK, among them 145,000 (34%) are from Asian countries mainly India, Pakistan and Bangladesh (BBC. 24th July 2007). Within 5 years (2002 to 2007) the numbers of foreign migrants increased more than two times in UK. Those migrant communities need job, accommodation, health and safety, social security and a certain portion of those migrant communities are legal immigrants and it becomes their right to have all the social securities and services from the UK government.

“The Planning Policy Statement 1 by the UK government sets out the Government's overarching planning policies on the delivery of sustainable development through the planning system” (PPS1, 2005). According to the PPS1 the UK planning system is moving towards sustainability with better and optimal planning policies. Therefore the planning system should have much room to accommodate the ethnic immigrant communities for them to achieve sustainability and to ensure social equity.

This study will try to identify the role of the current planning system for ensuring social sustainability and to ensure social equity for the immigrant communities in the UK especially the South Asian immigrant communities. For time and resource limitation, this study will focus on Greater Manchester and conduct in-depth study on two local planning authorities namely Manchester City Council (MCC) and Trafford City Council(TCC) to analyze how the planning system meet the social sustainability challenges for immigrant communities.

1.2 Background of the Research:

There is no other alternative but to consider the main three pillars of sustainable development to achieve sustainability for any process either planning or development. According to the Brundtland Commission report, (1987) those three pillars cover:

1. Environmental sustainability
2. Economical sustainability and
3. Social sustainability.

According to local agenda 21, the sustainability indicators under a planning system should cover all the three pillars, and their trend to justify either the planning approach moving towards the sustainability or not (Local Agenda 21, 2005). Furthermore to ensure social equity and to develop a sustainable community it is rather more important to focus on social sustainability. The dimensions of social sustainability are

1. Social Equity

- 1.1. Access to service facilities and opportunities.

2. Sustainability of community

- 2.1. Social capital
- 2.2. Social cohesion
- 2.3. Social exclusion (Bramely 2007)

Social equity means fairness among the community both in economically and environmentally to ensure a social well-being (PCSD 1999). Therefore it is important to ensure an equitable distribution of economic and environmental costs and benefits and the critical community services, opportunities to take part in the decision making process which affect the community. Under a sustainable planning system, better or advance social equity requires particular attention to the ethnic minorities like the immigrant communities.

According to the BBC, (July 2007), about 114 thousand Asian workers migrated to the UK in April 2003 and in April 2007 the number was 145 thousand. The Asian workers usually migrate to the major urban areas or cities in the UK like London, Manchester, Birmingham and others. In the year 2005 the total number of residents in Manchester City council was 392 thousand and among them about 10.3% was of South Asian ethnic minority (Manchester Factsheet 2007). On the other hand total 4% of the total residents in the Trafford City Council are South Asian ethnic communities and their total number is 210 thousand according to the census, 2001. Therefore to achieve sustainability in the present planning system it is important to ensure social equity for those particular ethnic communities under the Social Sustainability pillar.

The modern planning systems are practicing sustainable development, which means they equally and simultaneously address the social structures, economic development with environmental protection, at the same time, it is important to make sure the minor community and the disadvantaged people in the society are provided with ability to improve their quality of life (PCSD 1999). By any means if the immigrant communities who belong to the minority are not able to improve their well-being, the best design plans will fail to meet the goal and the future generation will not enjoy a high quality of life thus over all goal of sustainable development will never be achieved under the modern planning system and policy.

1.3 The aim and objectives of the research

The aim of this research is to assess the equity issues and social sustainability dimension for the immigrant communities under the present UK local level planning strategies. The study has been conducted from two different perspectives to assess the social equity issues, one is the respondents' opinions and the second is the role of local planning authorities. Under this research the South Asian immigrant communities are considered as the respondents and the planning and community officers and workers from both the Manchester and Trafford City Councils are the representatives of the local planning authorities. The aim of doing such study is to understand how the targeted community or population feel and achieve equity and how the planning and implementing authorities introduce equity issues to achieve long-term sustainability.

The sustainable indicators under Local Agenda 21, which is accessibility to housing, employment, health service and public services facilities, are applicable for all UK citizens and residents. This research is assessing whether those indicators are achievable for the South Asian immigrant communities to ensure social equity under the existing planning system. Therefore the main research questions under this research are:

- Do the immigrant communities (from South Asian countries) have the equal access to all the service facilities e.g. housing, employment, health service and education?
- Do the immigrant communities take part in the decision making process through public participation to ensure social equity?
- Do the local planning authorities make room for the ethnic minorities to get their voice in the planning and implementation process and how?
- To assess the level of satisfaction of the immigrant communities about the service facilities provided by the councils, for example housing, education, health and community participation.

Therefore the detailed objectives are selected to find the answer to those research questions. The following are objectives that focus the aim of the research:

1. To assess the accessibility of the immigrant communities to the service facilities e.g. housing, education, employment, health and other public services.
2. To understand the community level participation in the local level plans and decision making to ensure the social sustainability and equity, especially the immigrant community.
3. To identify the gaps between the planning system and community involvement in the local level planning to ensure social equity and the level of satisfactions of the immigrant communities.

Based on the literature review it has been proven that the current planning system in the UK has developed strategies to involve the communities at the local level to ensure equity and social sustainability. Therefore the main focus is given to the following issues to justify the objectives and to get the answer to the research questions:

01. Access to quality education
02. Access to affordable housing
03. Access to employment opportunities
04. Access to affordable health care facilities
05. Access to public service and facilities like:
 - a. Affordable and accessible public transportation.
06. Opportunity to take part in the planning and decision making process.

1.4 Scope & limitation of the study

The South Asian immigrant communities have a representative share of the total population both in Manchester and Trafford City Councils with their diversity of culture and profession. Mainly the South Asian communities are involved with service industries like retail shops, restaurants and other sales oriented business. Some people are also associated with administrative sectors and other professions. Therefore this particular community is a part of the UK society and the current planning system where they have a role to play to make the UK planning system to be sustainable and to meet the overarching sustainable goal selected by the PPS 1. But to achieve that sustainability goal it is rather important to assess whether this particular community enjoys equal opportunities to have access to the service facilities and whether they have their voice in the planning and decision making process. Furthermore

it is also important to justify if the local level planning authorities; the city councils have appropriate policy approaches and methods to ensure equity for all the residents to meet the sustainability goal.

In this research the respondents' opinion has been assessed and the planning policies and the role of the local planning authorities are also considered justifying the equity issues for the immigrant communities. Therefore this research draws a picture about the immigrant communities' view on social equity issues and their access to the service facilities and in planning decision making stage. Furthermore this research focuses on the limitation faced by the planning authorities to ensure social equity and what would be their further action to meet the need of a diversified ethnic community to achieve sustainability.

The main limitation of this study is to get connected with the immigrant communities. The immigrant communities are available all around both in Manchester and Trafford City Council but they are not available for discussion about social equity and other sensitive issues. The other main limitations that are faced during this research are:

01. Most of them do not have much idea what they can have under the local planning system.
02. The respondents are contacted through community networking therefore a certain portion of the immigrant communities who are in low paid and lower lifestyle are not covered on a bigger scale.
03. The community members in low paid jobs are not interested to talk, as they are afraid to lose opportunities from the councils.
04. Only the South Asian immigrant communities are covered rather than the whole Asian communities because of researcher's language and cultural similarities. That may divert the research findings in one direction.
05. The research budget and time limit do not allow to cover all the issues that related with urbanites and their livelihood rather than some selected indicators are assessed and only the filed based research technique is used.

Considering all those limitations, necessary steps are taken to get the real output from the field through structured a questionnaire with proper unbiased sampling techniques. The aim was to identify the social equity issues in a modern planning system with a multicultural diverse society like the United Kingdom.

1.5 Thesis outline

The complete thesis is comprised of six chapters. Chapter 1 is the introduction, giving the focus of the research aim, objectives and scope of the study. Chapter 2 reviews the related literature about equity, social sustainability, ethnic minority communities and social equity issues, the existing planning system and approach in the UK and the local strategic partnership. The research design and the methodological approach of this research are described in Chapter 3. This chapter covers the research type, study area justification, explanation of the sampling techniques used for this research and the research design. The data analysis and presentation are covered in Chapter 4. This chapter presents the existing scenarios to ensure equity under the existing planning system based on the data analysis. Moreover this chapter draws the possible indicators to assess the social sustainability and equity issues. Furthermore the chapter four also covers the limitation and difficulties to ensure social equity for South Asian migrant communities at the local level under the UK planning system. The practice of public participation in the UK planning system as well as the local level planning and the limitations of active public participation at the local level are expressed in Chapter 5. Chapter 5 also draws the sustainable matrix to assess the satisfaction level of the immigrant communities for basic components, to ensure better quality of life for the residents. The last part Chapter 6 includes author's recommendations and conclusion. The recommendation section mainly covers the possible alternative approaches to meet the need and requirements of ethnic minority communities to ensure their equity and make them a part of main stream to reach the goal of sustainability under the UK planning system. The conclusion section is the brief of overall findings of the research and what could be done as a further study on this particular issue to meet the challenges of sustainable development.

Chapter 2. Literature review.

2.1 Social equity, sustainability and planning

Social sustainability is one of the critical parts of the over all sustainability issues to measure, therefore most often it is neglected and the overall aim of sustainability failed to be achieved, especially in the planning process. However sustainable development under the planning concept includes “natural capital” and “social capital”. “Natural capital” usually means the flow and stock of natural and ecological services to support the life system. On the other hand “social capital” includes the energy, skills, and attributes of the individuals and organizations that make up a community or society. Economic development is the means to provide goods and services to meet the demand and ensure the quality of life. Furthermore the economic wealth of a society results from human innovation and productivity to enhance the social equity almost always improve the economic and environmental welfare of the community and organizations of that particular society (ISE 2005).

According to ISE, 2005 a community needs to adopt policies and programs to ensure social equity within the community to expand the life-enhancing condition for the community members. The priorities are the areas of health care, education, employment, transportation and housing to ensure a better service for the community and to ensure social equity. More specifically social equity under the planning system should address the issues such as:

- Access to quality education, libraries and other knowledge archives
- Affordable housing
- Open, transparent, and participatory governance
- Active neighborhood groups and associations
- Cultural relations in which the positive aspects of different cultures are valued and protected, and in which cultural integration is supported and promoted when it is desired by individuals and groups
- Access to safe employment opportunities
- Wages that provide for decent standard of living
- Effective, fair, and equitable legal and police systems
- Affordable and accessible healthcare
- Educational opportunity
- Neighborhood environmental and social quality
- A healthy built environment
- Affordable, efficient transportation

Ensuring social equity and equal opportunity is not a new concept in the planning process. Both the professional planning practitioners and theorists are concerned to identify the best approaches to present the development changes with the diverse society. Much attention has been paid to racial inequity within the community and specially the ethnic minority community who face the discrimination (Beebeejaun 2004).

The ethnic minority people are heterogeneous and that particular character could be a fact that failed to ensure social equity for that ethnic minority community. In Britain the Chinese, African-Asian and some times Indian immigrant communities are in similar position with the native white people to achieve the basic demand like education, employment, housing. On the other hand Caribbeans are some how behind and specially Pakistanis and Bangladeshis are far behind to achieve those demand ensure social equity (Thomas 2000).

These ethnic minor communities who belong to a particular culture or are heterogeneous in their culture are mainly the immigrant society. These immigrants are now the part of the British society and a part of the development planning system of the UK. Now the question is why this particular ethnic minority community remains behind in meeting the basic demand to ensure social equity in the planning system? Then the question is it is for their particular ethnicity or culture or because the failed to take part in the planning system?

2.2 UK Planning system and social equity

The government of the United Kingdom is committed to developing strong, vibrant and sustainable communities and to promoting community cohesion in both urban and rural areas through the UK planning system. The aim of the planning system is to meet the diverse needs of all people in existing and future communities, promoting personal well-being, social cohesion and inclusion and creating equal opportunity for all citizens (PPS 1, 2005).

According to the Development plans what should promote development that creates socially inclusive communities, including suitable mixes of housing. Plan policies should:

- ensure that the impact of development on the social fabric of communities is considered
- and taken into account;
- seek to reduce social inequalities;
- address accessibility (both in terms of location and physical access) for all members of
- the community to jobs, health, housing, education, shops, leisure and community
- facilities;
- take into account the needs of all the community, including particular requirements

- relating to age, sex, ethnic background, religion, disability or income;
- deliver safe, healthy and attractive places to live; and,
- support the promotion of health and well being by making provision for physical activity.

The core principle of the spatial planning system in the UK is to achieve sustainable development. The simple meaning of sustainable development under the spatial planning system is to ensure a better quality of life for every citizen now and for future generation. The concept of better quality of life means a positive difference that could ensure shelter, job and better opportunities for all. At the same time the spatial planning system has to protect the natural and historical environment to meet the principle of sustainable development.

The planning system has to create a sustainable community to ensure equity and to achieve sustainability under the system. Sustainable community means the community that will stand the test of time, where people want to live and where the people have the chance to meet their aspirations and potential (PPS 1, 2005). Therefore the plan should develop with the community representative involvement, where they will present a shared vision and strategy of achieving sustainability through their involvement at the decision making level, even the minority group in the community. Therefore to ensure equity the planning authorities should:

- I. Understand the needs and the broad interest of the community to secure better quality of life for every one in the society.
- II. The over all plan need to be drawn up at the appropriate time scale and need to be long term focused. (PPS1, 2005)

The government has recently published the Green paper to rearrange the traditional planning approach and to incorporate the sustainability appraisal on the planning system which claims to be promoting a fundamental change. Under the Green paper regional spatial strategies should replace regional planning guidance; that structure plans should not be valid any more; and that local plans should be replaced by local development frameworks, where the local planning authority would be more responsible at the local level to develop an action plan and a clear focused statement of community involvement (DCLG 2007).

The UK government has declared a complete strategy for the development plan to achieve the sustainable goal. According to the strategy the development plan will consist of:

- i. regional spatial strategies need to be prepared by the regional planning authorities and

- ii. development plans and necessary documents must be prepared by the district council and the local planning authorities (PPS12, 2005).

Under such strategy the local planning authorities get more responsibilities to integrate the community with the planning system and the spatial planning system goes beyond the traditional land use planning. Now the local development framework needs to be the key component to delivery of a long term spatial vision in development and planning introducing the community strategies to achieve sustainability. Local development documents should express those elements of the community strategy that relate to the development and use of land. Therefore while working with the local development documents the local planning authorities should work closely with their “Local Strategic Partnership to ensure that the community strategy contains realistic assumptions about the statutory constraints and the resources available to the local planning authority” (PPS12, 2005).

According to PPS12 2005, the key considerations for community strategies are:

1. Integrated approach towards future development within a local authority area based upon sustainable development objectives.
2. Joined-up approach to community planning, allowing local development frameworks to gain a clear understanding of community needs.
3. Recognition of local development frameworks as a delivery mechanism of community strategies and other local initiatives aims and objectives.
4. Economies of scale in terms of working corporately and sharing resources in the preparation of community strategies and local development frameworks, particularly process e.g. monitoring, sustainability appraisal etc
5. Potential to resolve conflicts between community aspiration and national and regional policy objectives by engaging with a wide range of stakeholders.
6. Positive contribution that can make to the strategy process.

The above mentioned key consideration for community strategies clearly empowered the local communities to take part in the decision making and plan development process. Therefore the local development framework has to ensure the equity under the local planning system. A number of different policies and strategies are taken by the local planning authorities and councils to incorporate the community in the plan development and the decision making process to ensure equity among the community. Now this is time to assess either those policies or strategies could achieve the social equity to meet the goal of local development frameworks and could be able to achieve sustainability.

2.3 Equity and Planning issues in Manchester City Council

The Manchester City Council (MCC) has been committed to ensure equal opportunities for the community members especially for the women, disabled, black and ethnic minorities. The city council is working to develop a workforce that reflects the diverse population of the city. It is certain that significant inequities exist among the Manchester communities to get the access to employment, education; health and safety to ensure a better quality of life. The reasons are many and complex why some of the community members are out of the better life standard, but the fact is that some of the communities have fewer chances to get better education, secure a job and to have a better access to medical and health facilities. The concern is why such things happened and how they could be minimized (MCC, 2005).

It has been identified that the access (or lack of) to the service facilities, wealth and opportunities are directly related to the degree of deprivation experienced. The discrimination of age, ethnicity, religion and disability acts as a barrier for many people in the way of accessibility to the opportunities. Therefore by focusing positively towards the richness and diversity of the cultures, customs and lifestyle it could be possible to ensure accessibility to the facilities for all in the community and balance the social equity.

The Manchester City Council introduce action oriented plan through the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) approach rather less motivation and awareness program to minimise the discrimination and to ensure quality of life. The aims of the action plan to ensure social equity are (MCC 2005):

- Challenge the discrimination and prejudice that excludes people from playing a full role in society.
- Reduce deprivation so that people are not disadvantaged by the quality of life either in their neighbourhood or in the city or by the quality of services they received.
- Celebrate diversity by making the most of the rich variety of Manchester ethnic and cultural mix to make a vibrant and successful city.

The MCC has identified selective objectives to meet the aim of the action plan under the LSP to ensure quality of life and equity. The objectives mainly focus on:

- To ensure quality of life local partnership will address the ways of improving quality of life among various communities interest.
- To make quality of life more consistence the local partnership and the local service providers pay more attention on particular geographical communities as well as communities of interest and make a better communication between them.
- To bridge the gap the delivery of social services is central to promote social inclusion.

- To challenge the attitudes and practice which introduce discrimination and inequities towards different ethnic community, women and less privileged people.
- To promote Manchester a city of multicultural and vibrant city.
- To achieve all the target it is important to work closely with the community involvement (MCC 2005).

Under the LSP the Manchester City Council has developed the Agenda 2010 to minimise social inequities. The agenda 2010 is the process that would allow black and ethnic minority communities to identify their own priorities in terms of different issues like jobs, education, and health and to form working groups to carry out an action plan to reach their target and concern.

2.4 Equity and community involvement planning issues in Trafford City Council (TCC)

The Trafford City Council (TCC) is one of the most sought after location to live with diversified culture, high quality of environment and economic variation. The city council also fixed the agenda 2021 to ensure equity for the citizens and to make sure that the residents will enjoy the highest quality of life in safe, clean and sustainable environment with equal opportunities for all.

Under the Borough's Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) like as Manchester City Council, a single body together with 100 different organizations will the TCC also working towards a sustainable community to ensure social equity among the communities. Under the LSP the council is committed to provide improve services to achieve sustainable economic growth and to make sure that everyone has the opportunity to benefit from and contribute to an improving quality of life (TCC 2006).

According to the Local Government Act 2000 the local authority prepared "community strategies" to achieve sustainable development and that was introduce as a part of the long term agenda 2021 action plan of TCC. The aim of the community strategies is to design an effective tool to engage local community in the local decision making. The community strategy should also ensure that all bodies who deliver services to the public co-ordinate their decision making, business planning and resource allocation more effectively, to deliver real improvements in quality of life (TCC 2006).

The long term agenda 2021 develop a complete vision under 4 main different targets, namely to Live, Learn, Work and Relax to ensure the high quality of life and equity for the residents in TCC. For example to ensure better living environment the council is trying to balance the

housing market by the target year 2021 based on the demand and to ensure the availability for everyone in the community. The housing action plan should prioritise the deprived, disadvantaged and ethnic minority community. The community strategies approach will ensure the community engagement and participation at the local planning and decision making, particularly they will focus on the over-50-year-old, young, black and ethnic minorities. At present 5% of neighbourhoods are identified as disadvantaged and 20% are most deprived community and they will be in the focus and bring to the community under the community strategies process by 2021 and to support them to achieve their potential (TCC, 2006).

2.5 Understanding and the gaps

The present planning system in UK under the development plan it is clearly stated to ensure equity and to engage the communities at local level planning and decision making system to achieve the core principle of planning that is sustainability. The core principle of the present planning system is to achieve sustainable means not only meet the economical and environmental goal but also to meet the social challenges by ensuring social equity. The planning system also attributed the primary importance to the areas of health care, education, employment, transportation and housing to ensure a better service for the community and to ensure social equity. It is rather important to ensure equity to achieve the core principle of the current planning system therefore the local planning authority has to take the prime initiatives.

Here the limitation there is no clear statement either in PPS1 or PPS12 how to measure the level of equity under the spatial planning system. There are no detail guide lines and measurement techniques to measure the social sustainability. Therefore the questions remains, how to measure social and at what level.

The local planning authorities also have long term agenda under the “Local Strategic Partnership” (LSP) to ensure equity and to achieve the sustainability target under the development planning principle. For example the Manchester City Council and the Trafford City Council introduce their action plan to ensure social equity for the communities and especially for the ethnic minority by the year 2010 and 2021 respectively. Both the city council has immigrant community who belong to the ethnic minority group because of, culture, religion and language. Therefore to bring them in the community and to ensure equity to achieve sustainability they introduce community strategies and partnership. But none of the community has drawn a clear picture how they are going to measure or what would be the measuring mechanism for social equity level. They have different action plans

and strategies but almost no measurement techniques.

The local level planning authorities have the same limitation as the central planning system in the UK to measure the social equity level. Under this circumstance this research is trying to develop a matrix based on three most important criterions:

1. Employment
2. Education
3. Health

for measuring the equity level in those selected city councils especially for the ethnic minority (South-Asian immigrant community) and to understand how those city councils could achieve their target to meet the goal of sustainability.

Chapter 3. Methodology.

3.1. Research type

Research method is the process to understand the choices and the assumptions made in the early stage of the research, and to make the way to conduct the research based on those assumptions to get the expected outcome of the research. Therefore it is rather important to know the research type while developing the research method. Research can be classified based on three different perspectives:

1. Application of the research study
2. Objectives in undertaking the research and
3. Inquiry mode employed.

All these classifications of research are not mutually exclusive, meaning that any research classified from the application view point can also be classified from the objectives and inquiry employed perspective (Kumar 2005). The following diagram shows the research classification based on different perspectives:

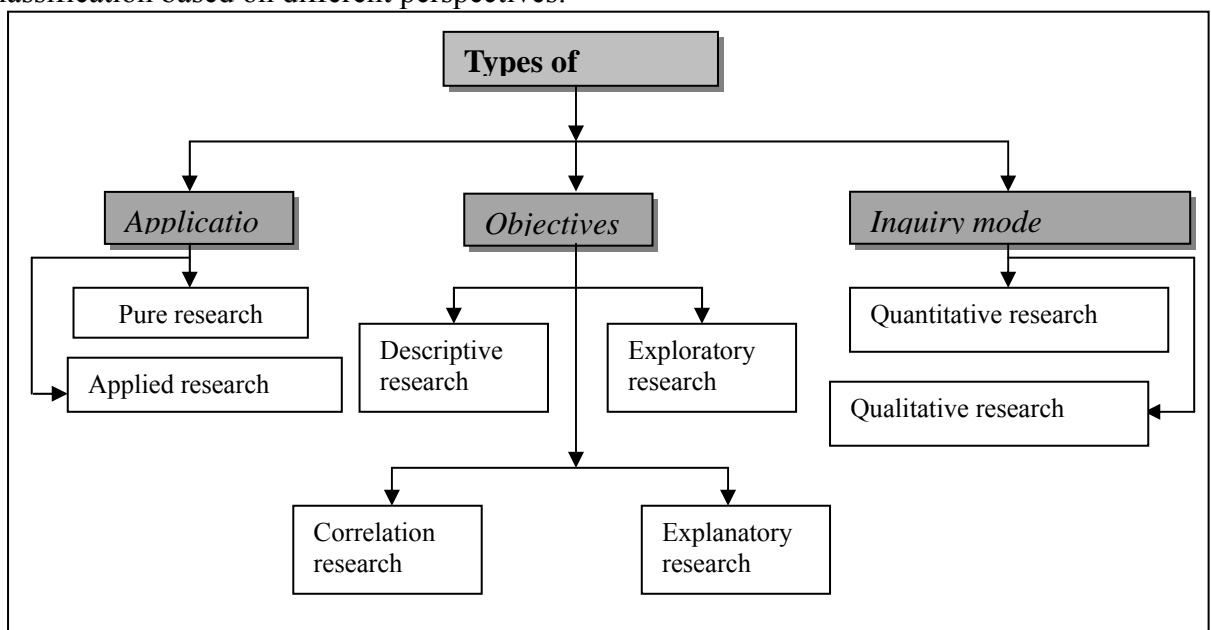


Figure 3.1: Research types for social studies. Kumar, 2005.

Therefore based on the research purpose any research could be an individual type or a combination of two or more types (Kumar 2005).

According to the research classification this study covers both the objectives and inquiry mode because this study describes the role of the existing planning system of the UK and how the local communities especially the South Asian immigrant communities could cope up with the planning system to ensure the social equity. Furthermore the study also conducts a

quantitative analysis through field base study to assess the level of gaps or limitations between the community involvement and the present planning system and to ensure social sustainability and equity to meet the core principle of the planning system.

3.2 Research design

Based on the purpose of this research it has been classified as a combination of exploratory (objectives) and evaluator (inquiry mode) types of research. The three main focused questions could explain the research purpose and can justify the classification of this research. The questions are:

1. **Why** do the local planning strategies need to ensure equity and social sustainability and why do the ethnic minority communities need to response to the planning system to ensure sustainability?
2. **What** are the possible approaches that could be adopted or introduced by the local planning authority under the planning system to ensure social equity and to achieve social sustainability?
3. **How** could the local planning strategies and the planning authority could ensure and measure the social equity at the community level?

The research method for this study has developed based on these three questions. Two different surveys or studies have been conducted under this research to get the answer to these questions. A literature survey has been conducted to justify the current UK planning principle, system and practice and how the current planning system incorporates social equity in the planning practice. A field level study has been conducted to understand the community perception and the views of the planning authorities and professional also collected. The aim of the field study was to identify the reality about the community involvement and participation in the planning system as well the role of the local planning authorities to ensure equity through the planning approach.

3.2.1 Study area

The aim of the research is not only justify the social equity issues under the UK planning system but rather also to make a comparison between two major city councils in Greater Manchester named Manchester City Council (MCC) and the Trafford City Council (TCC) to find out how the local authorities are performing to insure social equity among the communities under the planning system.

01. Manchester City Council(MCC)

Since the industrial revolution the Greater Manchester is well known as an economical and industrial hub around the world because of its geographical location as well as communication network. Such economical and industrial characteristics of Manchester attracted migrant people for better employment and business opportunities. Both the Manchester and Trafford City Council are belongs to the Greater Manchester along with 10 other different city councils. Manchester is one of the fastest growing city councils in the UK, because of its multicultural society, diverse economic activities and educational institutes. Rapid economic development, industrial growth, educational institutes and cultural diversity and international migration process make Manchester a rapidly growing urbanized area with 1.7% population growth rate, where as the UK has only 0.6% population growth rate (Manchester Factsheet 2007).

In the year 2001 the total population was 422900 and in 2006 it was 452000 and the growth rate was 6.9%. Within the year of 2005-2006 Manchester received about 5760 international migrants (Manchester Factsheet 2007). Among those migrants a big number are coming from South Asian countries especially from Bangladesh, India and Pakistan.

According to Manchester City Council 2007, the total number of residents in Manchester in 2001 was 392,819 thousands and among those 10.3% residents are from Asian community which is the 2nd largest group next to the white community (Manchester Factsheet 2007). Such big immigrant South Asian communities are the resident of the council and also a part of the planning system and they demand for housing, employment, health, transportation and other urban facilities within the existing planning system. Therefore the council has to perform a better role to introduce equity among the urbanites and to provide better services and a better living environment.

Furthermore the Manchester City Council prepared agenda 2010 under the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) to improve the race equality and that is a public commitment that the council will ensure equity especially for the Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) communities. The agenda 2010 is an action oriented plan and the aim of the plan is to close the gap between all the ethnic minority communities and at the same time minimise the gap between Manchester and England. The agenda provides a framework to deliver improved race equality and to address the need of everyone in the community (Agenda 2010).

Therefore the Manchester City Council has been chosen one of the study areas to identify how the city council is working to ensure social equity and to achieve social sustainability under the existing planning system and how the council will meet the target of the agenda 2010.

02. *Trafford City Council(TCC)*

The Trafford City Council is the main retail and commercial hub in the Greater Manchester area with 210, 145 population and among them 4% of the total population South Asian ethnic minority communities (National Census, TCC 2001). Those South Asian ethnic minority communities are involved with different retail and commercial activities, like restaurant owners and retail outlets.

In the Trafford City Council total 68% of the population are economically active and among them 55.8% are involved in service industries like retail, transport, finance and other services. The major actors of these service industries are from immigrant communities especially from the South Asian communities (National Census, TCC 2001).

Like as the Manchester City Council the Trafford City Council has also introduced the Equality and Diversity in Service Delivery Policy to provide the better living environment and services to meet the diverse need of the diverse community. The Council is committed to challenging inequality, discrimination and disadvantage. Trafford Council is also committed to achieving the highest standard of service delivery and employment practice.

The aim of the council is to introduce equal opportunities through equality in service delivery for the communities. Therefore the Trafford City Council introduced the equality standard and 2021 action plan. The equality standards introduced by the city council would help to minimise the discrimination barriers and ensure equal access to services and employment as well as other urban service and facilities for the citizens. The council also arranges regular community participation to make the public oriented equality and diversity service delivery policy, as a large portion of the population are immigrants and from different culture. Under the Local Government Act 2000 the TCC has introduced “community strategies” to achieve sustainable development and equity under the agenda 2021 action plan (TCC 2006).

Both the city councils have cultural diversity and concentration of immigrant citizens, and both the councils have long term strategic action plans and agenda 2010 and 2021 respectively to ensure equity in service providing and other opportunities to achieve sustainability under the existing planning system. Therefore it is now important to assess and compare how those two councils are working to meet their target and agenda within the targeted time frame and what are the limitation and gaps to meet the challenges.

Under such circumstances these two city councils (Manchester City Council and Trafford City Council) are chosen as study areas for this study to understand the role of existing planning system and the

3.2.2 Sampling

The important concern of this research is to define the target population as the main focus of this research is to assess equity and social sustainability for the ethnic minority communities under the UK planning system. The South Asian immigrant communities are considered as the ethnic minority communities in the study area. Therefore the local communities especially the South Asian migrant communities under the Manchester city Council and the Trafford City Council are the targeted population for this research based on the research aim and objectives.

In the Manchester and Trafford City Council 10.3% and 4% residents respectively are from South Asian region and they are a big share of the total population. Therefore it is rather difficult to conduct a questionnaire survey with every single resident to get their opinion to justify the social equity and sustainability issues. In this research the members of the population has been selected through snowball sampling techniques under the non-probability sampling. Through the snowball sampling techniques a network is developed with the immigrant communities through different social and community organizations to reach the respondents and to get their opinion. The judgment sampling techniques were also used to minimize the chances of introducing biasness in the sample selection, because the migrant communities are diversified in their profession, religious beliefs, language, culture and customs.

A total of 40 samples are chosen from the two city councils, 20 samples for each, based on the sampling techniques used in this research. By using the judgment sampling techniques 20 samples from each city council have been chosen based on some selected criteria to understand the need and the opinions of different respondents as the different respondents have different needs and opinion on equity issues. The respondents are classified and selected based on their

01. profession
02. immigration pattern or types
03. origin of the respondents
04. year of residence in UK

The South Asian immigrant communities are mainly from India, Pakistan and Bangladesh and bear the similar cultural ethnicity. Furthermore the occupation patterns of these particular community members are quite similar. They are mostly involved with service industries like retail and commercial sectors and a certain portion of them have their own businesses like restaurant businesses. There is a very little difference of employment; immigration pattern of these communities therefore 20 samples from each council represents the community. Moreover a pilot questionnaire survey has also been conducted to justify the sample size, and the validity of the data.

3.3 Research Methods

Consequently the first step of research design is: “a process of deliberate anticipation directed toward beginning an expected situation under control” (Achoff, 1953, quoted in Shamsad, 2002) keeping these in mind the methods are adopted in this research are divided into three different stages:

Stage one: this stage has been conducted mainly for formulating the goal and objectives as well to have a clear perspective on the topic and the subject matter of the study. The major tasks under this stage are

Inception: this part mainly covers the preliminary literature survey. Preliminary literature review was conducted to identify the goal and objectives of the study; the importance has been given on the following matters

- i) what studies have been carried out so far on social equity issues and immigration;
- ii) what has been recommended in those studies to ensure equity for the ethnic minority;
- iii) what should be the real focus of the problem and who should be the concern respondents;
- iv) identify the problem from the past and current research as well as from other secondary sources.

Comprehensive literature review:

At this stage different literatures (journal articles, case studies) have been reviewed to get a comprehensive knowledge about the literatures and theories regarding the issues of this study, ‘Social equity’, ‘immigrant community’ and ‘the UK planning system’, the main focuses of this study to get a clear concept about the meaning and importance of equity, sustainability, the role of the concern authority, existing planning system and the position of the particular ethnic community.

In the second part of the literature review, attention is paid to become more familiar with the local planning authority and their action to ensure the social equity among the ethnic minor communities. Under that part the role of Manchester and Trafford city council has been studied as the case study.

The main concern of these two parts of literature survey is to have a clear concept of the existing planning system of UK and how the planning system ensure social equity and social sustainability for the ethnic minority communities and how its practiced through the local authorities like the city councils.

Stage two: this stage is for data collection. Most of the data for this research are collected from filed survey through structured questionnaire interview as well a formal interview with the local planning professionals involved with community planning and equity issues.

The structured questionnaire survey has conducted among the South Asian immigrant communities residing in Manchester City Council and Trafford City Council, the respondents are selected through sampling techniques (see section 3.2.2) and interviewed accordingly.

The planning professionals from both the Manchester City Council and the Trafford City Council who are responsible with the equity and planning are also formally interviewed at this stage. The aim of such interviews is to get the concern of the local planning authority to understand the existing planning system and techniques to ensure equity within the existing planning system as well as to identify and justify the limitations at different stages and for different communities with different requirements. (Structured questionnaire is attached in appendix 1).

Secondary data: all the secondary data were collected from secondary sources like the government publications from the planning department, the government policy and strategies for immigrant communities, local strategic partnership approach and all local level planning and community involvement approach polices. More specific and detail data and information about the total population, immigrant policy, equal opportunities and social activities of each city council is obtained from the online sources e.g. from Manchester City Council website and Trafford City Council website and other governmental websites. The priority has given to the following issues while collecting the secondary data.

- ❑ population data of each city council;
- ❑ share of immigrant communities;
- ❑ economic activities and employment patterns and opportunities of the residents;

- ❑ equal opportunity policies of the city councils;
- ❑ social sustainability and equity under the existing planning system;
- ❑ planning strategies and policy approaches to introduce equity for the ethnic minority;
- ❑ the role of local strategic partnership (LSP) to introduce equity;
- ❑ diversity of multicultural society ;

Stage three: at this stage the collected data have been analyzed under different mathematical packages like SPSS, Microsoft Excel to assess and to identify how the existing planning system in UK ensure the equity for the immigrant communities to achieve the long term sustainable planning goals. Furthermore the outcome of the data analysis process could help to find out and to justify the limitations and difficulties to ensure equity at the community level. Such findings could help to draw the recommendation to introduce new policy and strategic approaches to overcome those limitations and to achieve social sustainability. The other aim of this study is to develop a sustainable indicator matrix to assess the equity level; therefore the analytical outcome from the data assessment could help to understand and to develop the indicators to arrange the sustainability matrix to measure the equity level.

Furthermore the analysis of the data would help to make a comparison between the Manchester City Council and the Trafford City Council to understand the planning initiatives and actions are taken by the local level authorities to ensure social equity for the residents in the respective city council.

The whole research has conducted through a methodological process; the following flow chart shows the methodological process of this research.

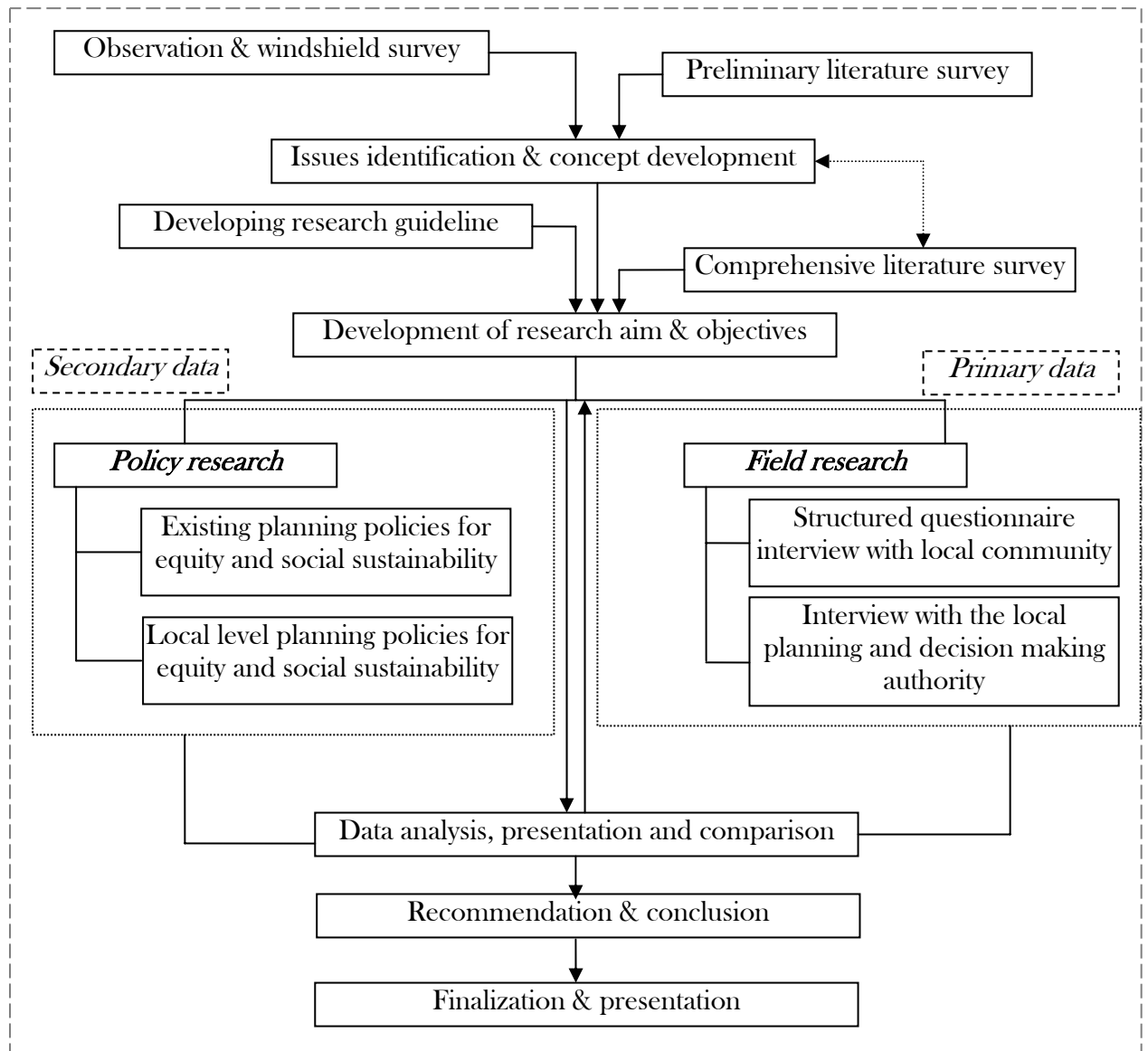


Figure 3.2: Methodology flow chart of the study.

Chapter 4. Data analysis and presentation.

4.1 Introductions

The Manchester and Trafford City Council have been chosen as case study area for this research as both the councils have social, cultural and economical diversity, at the same time both the councils have long term agenda and strategic approach to ensure equity for the residents. In this research the field data has been analyzed to identify the cultural and social diversity for the South Asian immigrant communities. Furthermore under this research it has been analyzed how the existing planning system in UK introducing and practicing social equity especially for the ethnic minority communities at the local level under the LSP.

A comparative analysis also made between the Manchester City Council and the Trafford City Council under this study to understand how these tow different local planning authorities practicing and introducing equity for their residents especially for the South Asian immigrant communities. The analysis has made both from socio-economic and planning perspective to understand the resent situation and to make a comparison.

4.1 Demographic distribution

The South Asian immigrant communities in Manchester and Trafford City council are mainly from India, Pakistan and Bangladesh. There are also smaller communities from Srilanka and Nepal but mostly the Indian, Pakistani and Bangladeshi communities are the representative group.

It has been mentioned that about 10.3% of the total population in Manchester City Council are South Asian communities where as only 4.3% are South Asian immigrant communities in Trafford City council based on the census 2001. Among them total 40 respondents are interviewed for this study and the following figure 4.1 shows the composition of the respondents based on their origin.

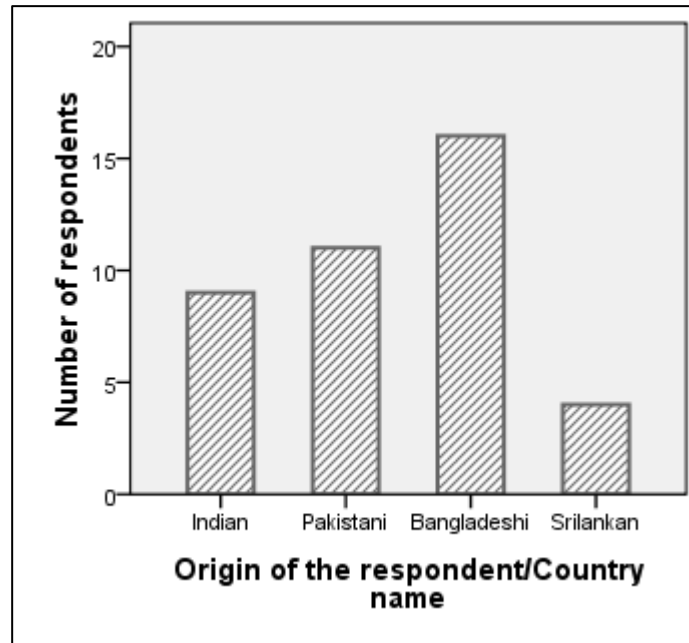


Figure 4.1: Distribution of the respondent's number based on origin.

According to the figure 4.1 about 16 (40%) respondents' origin is Bangladesh and 11 (27%) and 9(23%) respondents are migrated from Pakistan and India respectively. Only 10% (4) of the total respondents from Srilanka and there is no representative from Nepal. In this study the maximum respondents are from Bangladesh as the Snowball sampling technique is used as well the researcher is from Bangladesh. But the judgment sampling technique also used to avoid the sampling bias in the study therefore almost similar percentage of the respondents are taken from Pakistan and India to get a representative information from different South Asian immigrant communities from both the city councils.

The immigrant communities have different citizenship pattern, the 2nd generation of the immigrant communities got by birth citizenship where as a big portion of the total immigrant communities having other immigrant status or citizenship pattern. The following pie diagram4.2 shows different citizenship pattern of the respondents.

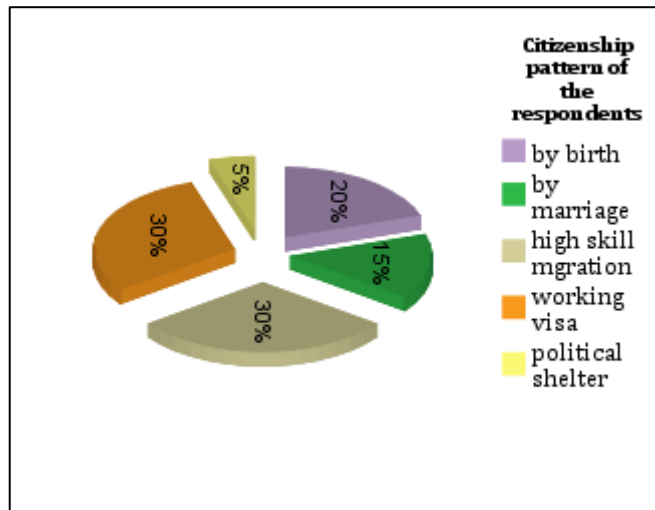


Figure 4.2: Citizenship pattern of the respondents in this study.

Culturally the South Asian communities are used to live within their own community who represents the same culture and religion values. The immigrant South Asian communities also represent the same cultural values while living in UK. They have central tendency to accommodate themselves within their own cultural communities. But the most important factor that introduces diversity among the immigrant communities to accommodate them in different location beyond the cultural ethnicity is the employment opportunities and the diversity. The table 4.1 shows the distribution of the respondents both in Manchester and Trafford city council. These numbers in the table 4.1 are not representing the actual distribution ration of the South Asian immigrant communities in those city councils rather the respondents only. Furthermore the figure 4.3 shows the citizenship pattern of the respondents in those two different city councils.

The table 4.1 in shows the number of respondents from Manchester and Trafford City Councils are interviewed under this research.

Table 4.1: Origin of the respondent/Country name * Respondent city council Crosstabulation.

		Respondent city council		Total
		Manchester	Trafford	
Origin of the respondent/Country name	Indian	5	4	9
	Pakistani	8	3	11
	Bangladeshi	5	11	16
	Srilankan	3	1	4
Total		21	19	40

In this study mostly Bangladeshi communities are interviewed and most of them are from Trafford City Council where as most of the Indian and Pakistani respondents are from Manchester City Council. One of the main reason of such out come is the cultural tradition of the South Asian communities to live with their own community and where they have availability of jobs.

The figure 4.3 shows the citizenship pattern of the respondents in both the city councils and the distribution also varies based on the employment opportunities and the skills of the respondents.

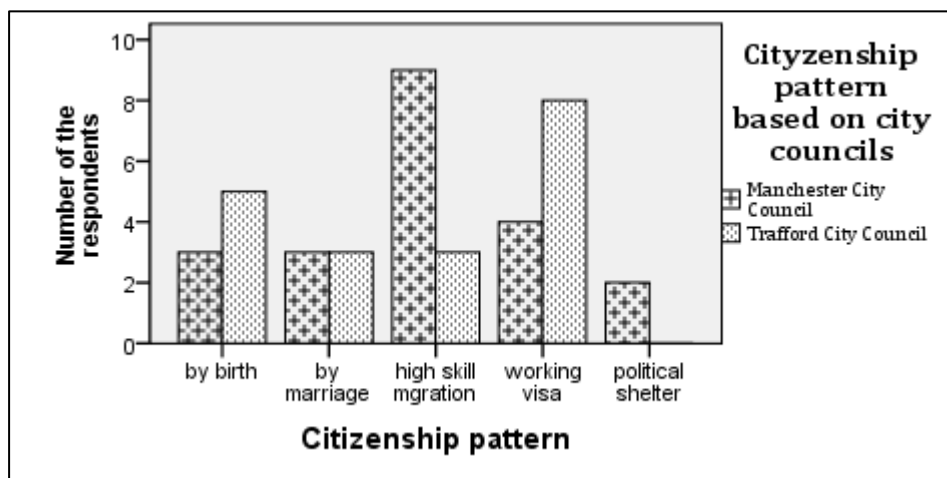


Figure 4.3: Citizenship pattern of the respondents based on the city councils.

The main economical patterns Manchester City Council are mainly related with retail, commercial and industrial based where as the economic patterns of the Trafford City Council are based on public administrative, commercial and public welfare, therefore the residents with the high skill immigration status are in Manchester City Council and those who are migrated with work permit are in Trafford city Council.

4.2 Employment and locational distribution

The main two factors that influence the immigrant communities to concentrate in a particular area where they have

1. better jobs or employment opportunities
2. similar ethnic communities or communities belongs to the same culture.

According to table 4.1 and table 4.2 it shows that most of the Pakistani respondents are from Manchester City Council and most of them are involved with community based employment and rest in retail sectors. According to the statistics 27.2% employees in Manchester City council are associated with health/education or social employment sector and 14.5% are associated with sales related employment (Annual business inquiry, 2004).

On the other hand the Bangladeshi respondents are mostly involved with private sector or non governmental organization and they are mainly concentrated in Trafford City Council. It has been mentioned that the major economical activities in Trafford city council are based on commercial sectors and administrative sectors. About 24.5% residents in Trafford City Council are involved in public sectors, like NGO and other public welfare sectors (TCC, 2006). The statistical analysis in table 4.1 and 4.2 also shows that employment opportunities and particular cultural orientation are the main functions to distribute the immigrant communities.

Table 4.2: Origin of the respondent/Country name * Occupation pattern Crosstabulation.

		Occupation pattern								Total
		Government Employee	Restaurant owner	Shop owner	Post office/service industry	Business	Private/NGO/Semi-government	Unemployed	Community worker	
Origin of the respondent/Country name	Indian	0	0	1	3	0	1	4	0	9
	Pakistani	0	0	3	1	1	0	0	6	11
	Bangladeshi	3	2	0	1	1	8	1	0	16
	Srilankan	0	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	4
Total		3	2	6	6	2	10	5	6	40

Furthermore the employment opportunities in both the councils are highly correlated with the educational qualification and skills of the residents, though both the councils have different employment diversity. Mainly the university graduates are employed with the private/NGO or semi- government administrative works, government sectors. On the other hand those who are not educated are found themselves unemployed. Moreover those who do not have UK educational background belongs to the “other” category are found in business sector and shop owner. There are also unemployed respondents who are graduated from college are unemployed, because they are looking for better opportunities and some in the middle of job shifting position. Furthermore the South Asian immigrants who migrated to UK with High Skill Migration Policy (HSMP) of the UK government also employed with the government, semi-government authorities and technical fields. The community workers and the employees in service sector are college graduates.

The following figure 4.4 presents the correlation with education and occupation pattern of the respondents in both the councils.

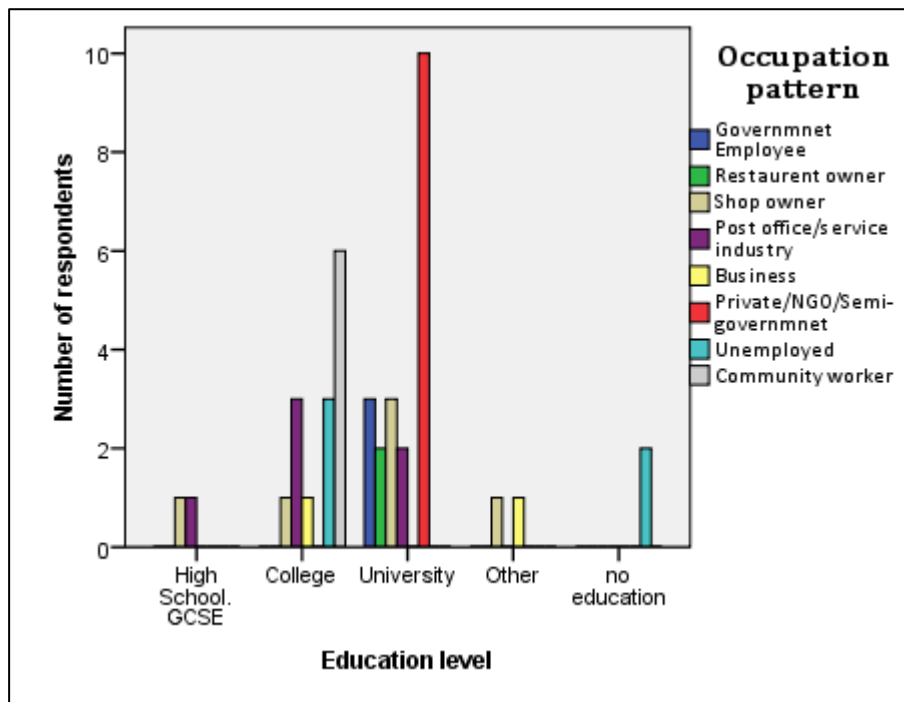


Figure 4.4 Correlation with education level and occupation pattern of the respondents.

4.3 Education

Most of the respondents in the study areas having higher educational background, 50% of the respondents are university graduate and only 5% of them are not educated. On the other hand 35% of the respondents are having college diploma, and some of them have higher education but not from the UK. The figure 4.5 showing the percentage of the respondents based on their education level.

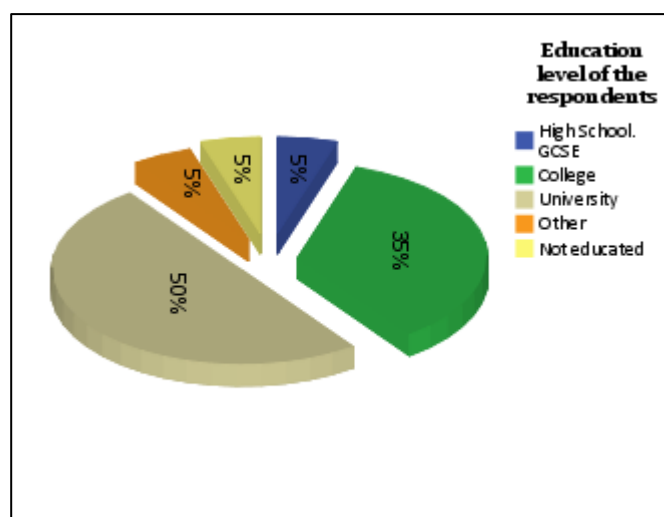


Figure 4.5: respondents' distribution based on their educational level.

It has been analyzed that the employment opportunities are correlated with the skill and educational level of the respondents in figure 4.4, and the respondents having higher level education are usually employed by the governmental, semi-governmental, NGO or private

administrative sectors. The immigrant communities have different citizenship pattern of immigrant status, therefore some of them have higher education level from other institutes outside from the UK and some of them obtained their education qualification from different education institutes of the UK. According to the filed survey total 23 (57.5%) of the respondents have UK degrees and only 17 (42.5%) have degrees from other institutes out side UK or no education at all.

The following figure 4.6 shows either the educational qualification can make any change or add any extra benefit in the job markets for the immigrant communities or not.

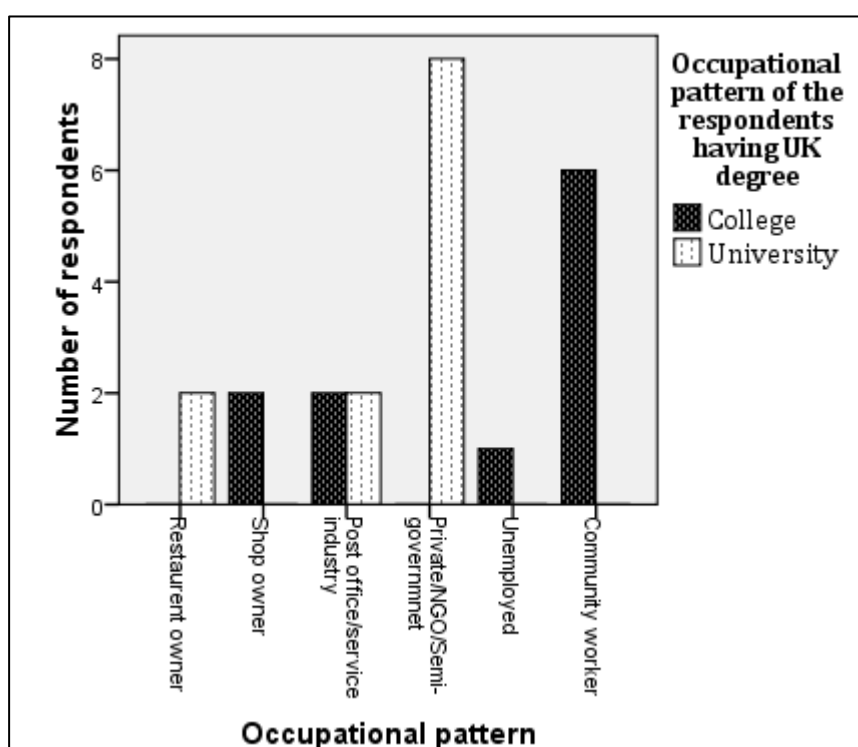


Figure 4.6: occupational pattern of the respondents attending higher degrees from the UK.

The figure 4.6 and the figure 4.4 express the same employment ration and patterns. Those who have higher educations are mostly employed by the administrative sectors and community level employments. Therefore based on those two different assessments it is revealed that employment opportunities in both the city councils are correlated with the skill and educational expertise of the residents, and those who have better quality will have the opportunities.

Furthermore it is also assessed either the respondents who are having UK degrees faced any limitation as an immigrants. Total 15 respondents out of 23 having higher degrees in UK answered the question and based on their responses the following table 4.3 shows the limitations faced by the immigrant communities having higher education under the UK planning system.

Table 4.3: Level of degree or Education * Limitation about the higher studies program Crosstabulation.

		Limitation about the higher studies program		Total
		High expense	Is not accessible for all	
Level of degree or Education	College	6	1	7
	University	7	1	8
Total		13	2	15

Out of the 15 respondents 2 of them feel the higher education is not for all in UK, as there are no government subsidies and supportive policies for higher education where as at the elementary school and high school level government has subsidies and equal opportunities for all. Therefore who cannot afford after high school get dropped to have further higher studies and get less opportunities for better employment. On the other hand 13 of them found that the higher studies in UK are quite expensive to afford and only a few can afford for better opportunities.

More over the family members of the immigrant communities like their sons or daughters are also attending different educational programs in UK. They also have their opinion about the educational facilities they are receiving under the UK planning system. Total 77.5% (31) of respondent's family members are attending different educational program in UK and they are attending from community school level to the university level. Among those respondents 19 respondents have their opinions about the limitation UK educational system while their children are attending different level of education program. The following table 4.4 shows the limitation faced by the immigrant parents for the children education in UK.

Table 4.4: Education level of the respondents family members * Limitation about the educational program Crosstabulation.

		Limitation of the educational level attend by the family members		Total
		High Expense	Not accessible	
Education level	High School/GCSE	3	1	4
	University	7	2	9
	College	3	0	3
	Community school	2	1	3
Total		15	4	19

Out of those 31 respondents more than 50% had their opinion about the educational system under the current UK planning system. Total 15 respondents have found that the education is really expensive, whereas 4 of them found that education at different level is not accessible for all, may be high expense is one of the reasons.

4.4 Housing

Another most important planning issue for the urban residents is housing. Housing not only provides shelter rather also ensure safety, security and comfort. Therefore housing is toll to measure the planning standard. Under this study it has been found that every single respondents have housing facilities in both the city councils.

The housing occupancy pattern is composed of ownership or tenancy type. The occupancy patterns are different in those councils. The following figure 4.7 represents the housing occupancy pattern in MCC and TCC.

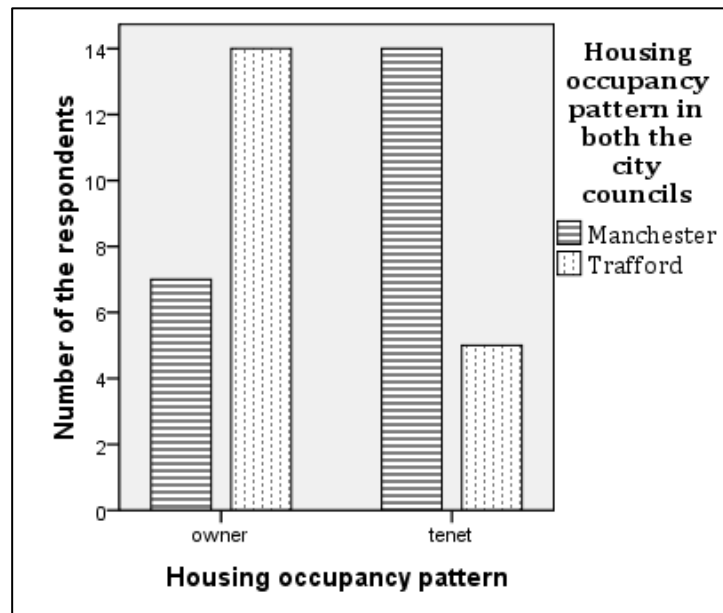


Figure 4.7: housing occupancy patterns in Manchester and Trafford City Council.

In Manchester City Council total 14 respondents rent a house to ensure their accommodation where as the same number of respondents in Trafford city Council owned a house. Only 7 respondents out of 20 in MCC owned a house and only 5 respondents in TCC rent their accommodation. The reason of such situation could be the population size. Manchester City Council has almost 2 times more population than Trafford City Council as well the number of immigrant communities are also 2 times bigger. The average household size in MCC is 2.25 (Manchester Factsheet 2007) and in TCC it is 2.33 (TCC 2006). Therefore the residents in TCC have to find house to accommodate the bigger family and they look for private housing sector to buy a house.

Types of housing are also another concern for the residents to ensure a better quality of life. There two different types of housing available in both the city councils and those are private housing and council housing. The figure 4.8 bellow shows the housing types in MCC and TCC as well the number of residents use to live in those housing.

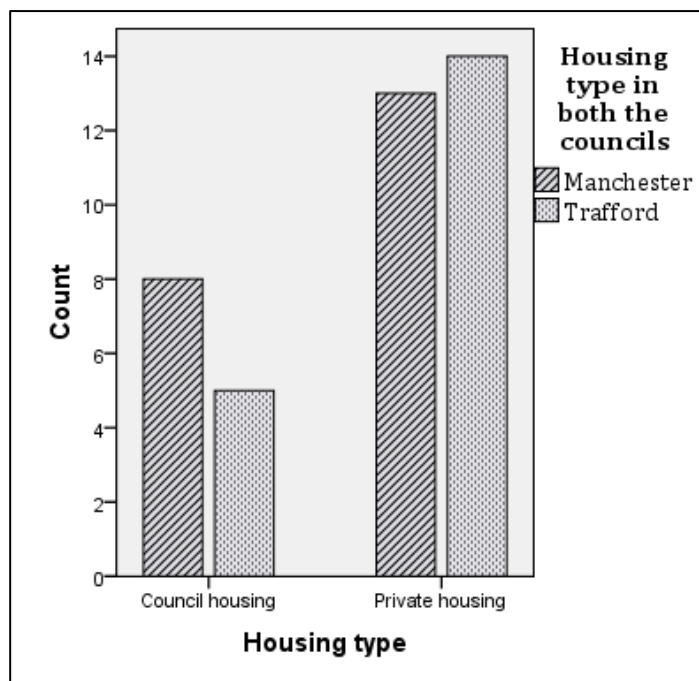


Figure 4.8: Housing types in Manchester and Trafford city Council.

About 70% (14) of the total respondents from Trafford City Council live in private housing, most of them are the owner of the house but a few are tenet in the private housing sector. The situation is also same in Manchester City Council; about 65% (13) of the respondents are in private housing sector. Manchester City council provides more council housing (40%) for the immigrant communities than that of Trafford because the numbers of South Asian immigrant communities are higher than Trafford City Council.

According to the immigrant communities, the housing facilities provided is not enough more over the council housing failed to ensure security and safety. The table 4.5 below shows the respondents opinion about the safety issues concern with the available housing types in both the city councils.

Table 4.5 Housing types * The existing housing facilities for safety concern Crosstabulation.

		The existing housing facilities provide safety		Total
		Yes	No	
Housing type	Council housing	1	6	7
	Private house	24	1	25
Total		25	7	32

Total 78% of the respondents feel the private housing can ensure more safety than the council housing. The Council housing failed to meet the safety requirements as the council arranges a mixed housing with all other different communities and follow a common standard for all. Following is brief comment of a respondent from the Manchester City Council about the council housing.

“It takes a long time to get the council housing as there always a long queue for the council housing especially the immigrants and the low income people are in the community members are there. More over the council always provide a mixed cultural housing society therefore people from different ethnicity and cultures are living there. Some time those cultural and language barrier cause harm for other residents who lives in those area. Moreover the over all security in those area are less than other part of the city”

Most of the immigrant communities used to live in the private housing sector even it is expensive rather council housing. The main reasons to find an accommodation in private housing are

1. They use to live within their own community
2. It is rather quick and prompt to get accommodate in private housing rather be in queue for council housing
3. Private housing provide better safety and security
4. There are option and opportunities to own a private housing rather to get a council housing for rent.

Though the respondents get housing facilities either in private housing or in council housing yet there are not enough housing facilities for the residents in both the city councils. The following figure shows the limitations of having housing facilities in both the city council based on respondent’s opinions; total 27 (67%) respondents have their opinions about this issue.

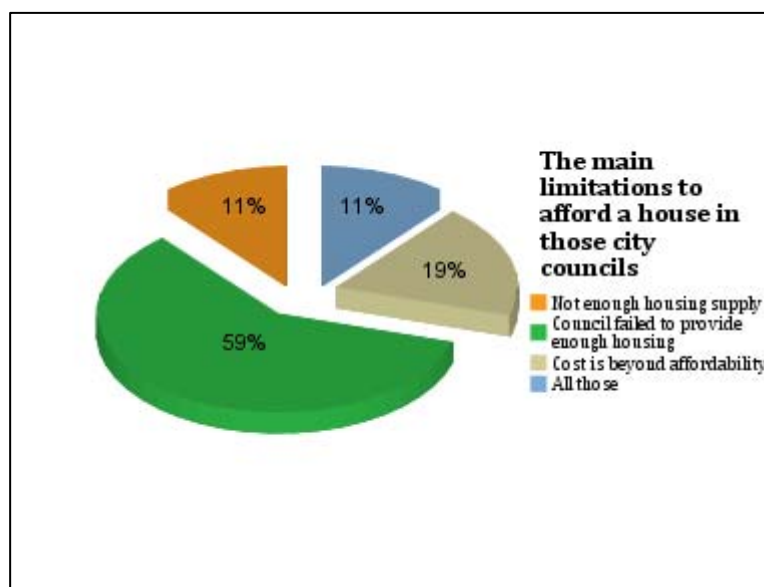


Figure 4.9: The limitation of affording a house in Manchester and Trafford City Council.

Total 59% of the respondents out of those 67%, feel that the local council failed to provide enough housing for the residents, where as 19% of them feel like the housing cost is beyond their affordability to own a house rather they queue for council housing or find cheap low cost private housing to rent.

The availability of housing facilities also varies in the city councils based on the population and housing demand. Both the total population size and the immigrant communities in Manchester is higher than the Trafford City Council therefore there always a housing demand in Manchester City Council. In the figure 4.7 it has been shown that most of the residents in Trafford City Council own a house and only a few of them are tenant and the picture is just opposite in Manchester city Council. The following table 4.6 also justifies the statement from the respondent's opinions that there are shortages of housing supply in Manchester, especially for the immigrant communities; even there are shortages of council housing.

Table 4.6: The limitations to afford a house in Manchester and Trafford City Council.

		The main limitation to afford a house in UK				Total
		Not enough housing supply	Council failed to provide enough housing	Cost is beyond affordability	All those	
City Council	Manchester	3	9	4	3	19
	Trafford	0	7	1	0	8
Total		3	16	5	3	27

Among the 27 respondents who have their opinion about housing availability, none of them from Trafford City Council feel like there are any shortages in housing supply, though there are some shortages of council housing. On the other hand in Manchester City Council most of the immigrant respondents feel that there are shortages of housing facilities and the council also failed to provide enough housing for them.

The total number of residents in Manchester City Council is 392,819 and the total number of persons in household is 37,738 (Manchester Factsheet 2007), so there always housing demand in Manchester. According to the community network development coordinator Ms. Frances Tagoe

“the council always have target and long term plan to meet the housing demand but the rate of migration not only from Asian countries as well EU countries and all over the work is quite high than the housing target plan. Moreover it takes time to build new housing facilities and land is always very precious. That causes continuous housing shortages in Manchester city Council.”

Furthermore providing housing is not enough rather it is important to provide a better living environment for the residents. Like enough space per person in the house, well orientation. Most of the respondents in both the city councils are living in the private housing rather than council housing therefore they agreed that the private housing provide better facilities to ensure better living environment than council housing. The following figure 4.10 express the respondent's opinion about the living environment in the housing facilities they have.

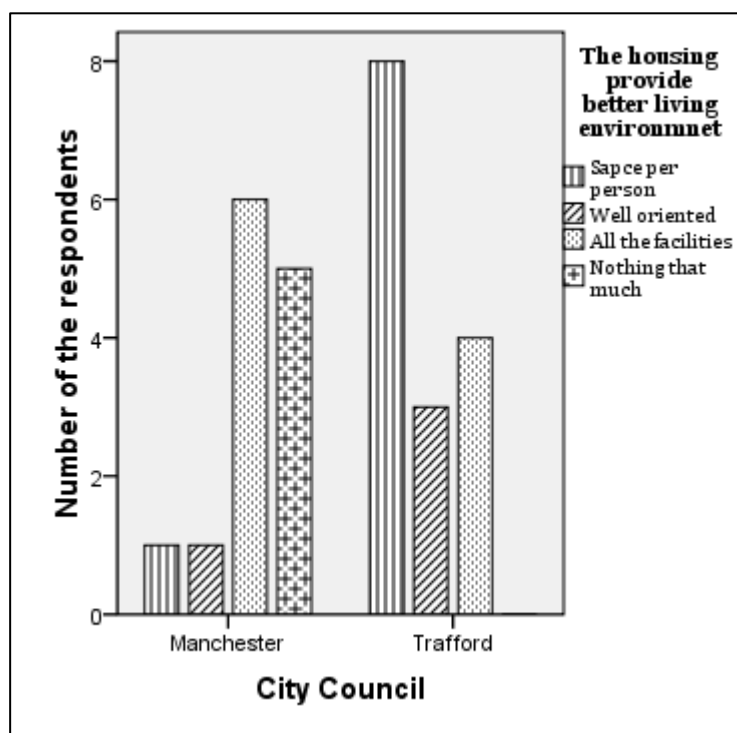


Figure 4.10: Better living environment provided by the housing sector.

It has been shown that most of the respondents in Trafford are living in private housing and the private housing one can easily own according to his or her requirements. In Manchester there is always a shortage of housing therefore the immigrant community has to share low cost housing and that failed to meet the needs for better living environment therefore about 5 respondents out of 13 have their opinion that the housing facilities failed to meet any requirements for better living environment where in Trafford none of them claim for that. Manchester City Council failed to meet the housing demand for their resident especially for the immigrant communities. It is not because there is no housing policy and strategy in the existing planning system rather the migration rate to the Manchester City Council is higher than any other council in Greater Manchester.

4.5 Employment

Employment opportunities are one of the major concerns not only for the immigrant communities but for the whole UK citizen who get the age to work. Presently the total unemployment rate in UK is 2.4 % where as the unemployment rate in Manchester City is 3.8% (Manchester Factsheet 2007). The main employment sectors and percentage of the total population involved in Manchester City Council are as follows:

Employment Sectors in Manchester City Council	Percentage of the total population
Employment in banking and other services	28.2%
Employment in public administration sector	27.2%
Employment in sales related activities	14.5%

Source: Manchester factsheet, 2007.

A major share of the South Asian immigrant communities are involved in sales related and service industries like retail business and other service sector in Manchester area some of them are also in Banking and Public administrative sector.

In the Trafford City Council total 99,146 people are employed and they are mainly involved in

Employment Sectors in Trafford City Council	Percentage of the total population
Employment in manufacture and construction services	19%
Employment service sector (retail, transport)	55.8%
Employment in public sector	24.5%
Employment in primary industry (agricultural)	0.7%

Source: Census, 2001.

There are employments opportunities in both the councils still there are unemployment and the immigrant communities who are coming from different educational background, different culture and different skill level with language barriers feel shortage of employment opportunities. The following table 4.7 shows the respondents opinion about the employment opportunities and the role of city councils (Manchester and Trafford) to create more windows for the residents in the job market. Total 38 respondents out of 40 (95%) have their opinion about this issue.

Table 4.7: Employment opportunities and the role of city councils.

		Role of the Local councils to arrange enough job opportunities		Total
		Yes	No	
Employment opportunities	Yes	8	6	14
	No	7	17	24
Total		15	23	38

Out of the 38 respondents about 37% of them feel there are job opportunities where as 63% have negative concept. More over 23(60%) respondents thought the local council failed to arrange more opportunities or more windows for the immigrant communities for job, though about 88% (35) of the total respondents from both the councils are employed. The table 4.8 shows the current employment status of the respondents.

Table 4.8: Number of employed and un employed respondents in the both the councils.

		Role of the Local councils to arrange enough job opportunities		Total
		Employed	Unemployed	
Employment opportunities	Manchester	19	2	21
	Trafford	16	3	19
Total		35	5	40

Among the 40 respondents only 5 (12%) unemployed and those are either not educated or no skill or in the transition period of shifting or searching new employment. One of the respondents from Manchester City Council has his comment about the employment opportunities in Manchester and following is the brief of his comment to understand the current situation.

“Usually the immigrant communities use their community link or network to get a job or employment and that is one of the main reasons why they use to be together. The Community network helps much than the social or council structure to be employed or to be live better in Manchester. The Council job centre only helps to get job for those who are under job seeker allowance. Job centre have option to search job but almost non can get benefit from their especially the young and new comer.”

Under this research the respondents are asked to justify either the immigrant communities are getting the equal chances or opportunities to be in the main stream job market. There is unemployment and the immigrant communities have to struggle to make their room with all their limitations. The figure 4.11 below representing the respondent’s opinion about the equal opportunity issues for the immigrant communities in the job market.

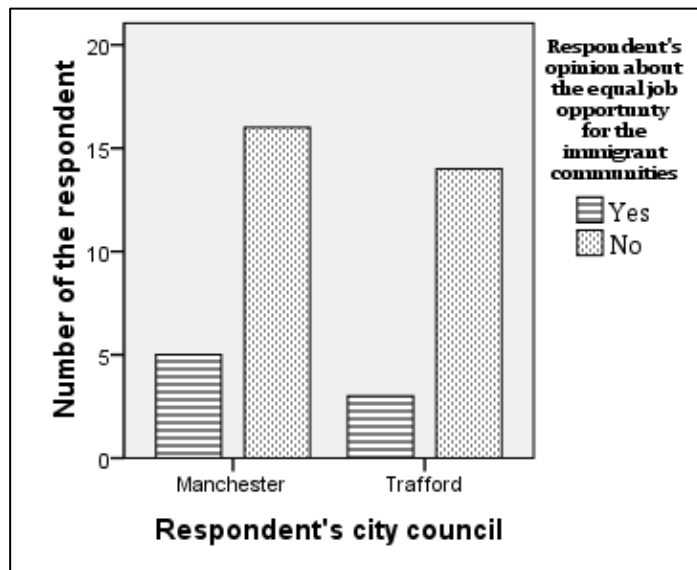


Figure 4.11: Respondent's opinion about the equal job opportunities in both the city councils. Total 38 (95%) respondent express their opinion and based on the above diagram total 28 (73%) of the respondents feel that the immigrant communities failed to get the equal chances to get into the job market. According to the field survey there are job limitations in both the councils especially for the immigrant communities. Following are the some selective assumptions consider under this research to assess the current job opportunities in both the city councils.

1. Current job markets are getting smaller
2. Too many unskilled labour from all over the world
3. Government/local council failed to open new job widows for the residents
4. All the above reason

Data are collected to justify those assumption based on the respondents opinion from the filed survey. The following diagram 4.12 shows respondent's view based on those assumptions.

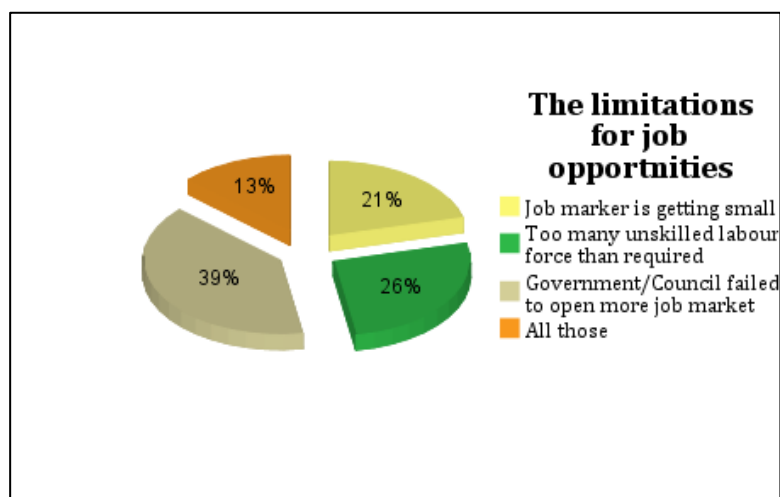


Figure 4.12: Limitations for job opportunities in both the city councils.

According to the field survey 39% of the respondents feel that under the current planning system the local city councils as well as the Government failed to meet the growing employment demands. Moreover too many immigrants are competing for job opportunities that squeeze the current job market, 21% respondents have such feelings. On the other hand too many unskilled labor forces have limitation to get better job, when they have cultural, language and skill barriers. According to the Trafford planning authority

“the council has introduced “Equality & Diversity in service delivery policy” where every one will be ensured for better housing, education and employment. But most of immigrant communities especially the South Asian immigrant communities have cultural and language barrier and it hard to accommodate them immediately. Moreover some of the immigrants failed to proof legal documents to work in UK under the government employment policy, therefore there always limitation to ensure employment for everyone, yet the council is working under the new equality and diversity service policy.”

The local planning authorities have agreed that there are shortages of employment or job facilities for the immigrant communities but the authorities also have their explanations how they are going to meet the need and what are the limitations they are facing to meet that demand. Both the Manchester and Trafford City Council have long term agenda to ensure employment and equal services for all to meet the future demand but they have no explanation how they will meet the demand.

4.6 Health

The Manchester City Council has introduced the Joint Health Unit as a key part of the public health system in Manchester. It is a team that focuses on strategic planning and partnership working for health improvement and tackling health inequalities. The Joint Health Unit is based with the Council, but jointly funded by the Council and Manchester Primary Care Trust for better health facilities for the residents (MCC 2008). With this new joint health unit the city council leads on:

- *Smoke Free Manchester* - lead and support the work towards a "Smoke Free Manchester"
- *Food Futures* - promote healthy eating through the Manchester "Food Futures" Strategy
- *Valuing Older People* - improve the quality of life for older people through the Valuing Older People Initiative
- *Teenage Pregnancy Partnership* - co-ordinate the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy to provide better prevention and support

- *Health & Regeneration* - lead on the building of new health facilities in regeneration areas

The Manchester City Council introduces better opportunities to meet the medical needs for the residents, therefore the field survey has conducted to assess either the respondents are satisfied with the present health facilities or not. The following diagram 4.13 shows the percentage of the respondents about their satisfaction on existing health facilities. According to field data most of the respondents (70%) are satisfied with the existing medical facilities.

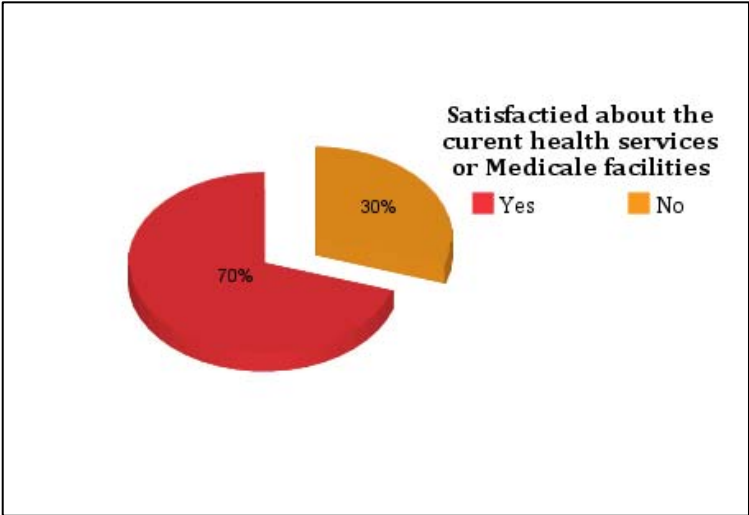


Figure 4.13: Respondents satisfaction about the health service and medical facilities in both the city councils.

The health services and facilities are almost same for both the city councils as the city councils provide community based health facilities for the UK citizens, yet the residents from different city councils have different opinion and satisfaction level about the health service and medical facilities. The following table 4.9 shows the respondent satisfaction about the present health services based on Manchester and Trafford City Council.

Table 4.9: Does the current health service meet the satisfaction level.

		Respondent city council		Total
		Manchester	Trafford	
Satisfied with the present health services.	Yes	17	9	26
	No	3	11	14
Total		20	20	40

In the Manchester City Council almost 85% (17) of the respondents are satisfied with the medical services, where as 55% (11) of the respondents are not that satisfied with the health services in Trafford. Furthermore the respondents are also asked the major limitations of the current health services, especially the respondents from Trafford City Council are asked to draw their opinion and the following diagram 4.14 shows the limitations of current health services under the existing local level planning system.

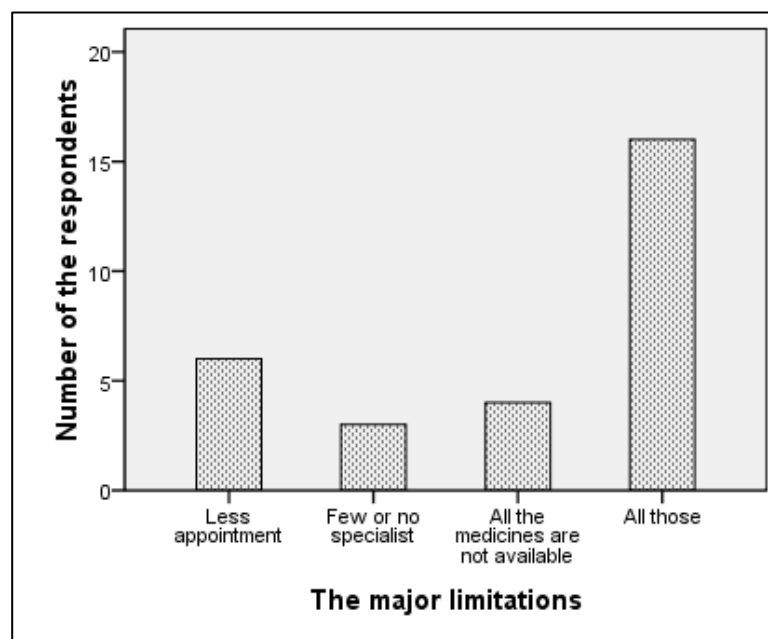


Figure 4.14: Respondents opinion about the limitation of health service facilities.

The respondents from both the city councils have their opinions to find out the major limitation about the health services and based on their opinion the major limitations are;

01. Less appointment with the doctors or no appointment is time
02. Limited number or no specialist to meet the medical requirements
03. All the medicines that are prescribed or required not always available in community medicine shop
04. All the limitations mentioned above.

“Those limitations could be solved with the direct actions by the council with community involvement and discussion but the council failed to reach to them for that particular issue”,

The common opinion of the respondents who feels there are limitations in health service and what could be done, they have been asked either the council ever took any initiatives to overcome such limitations or the following diagram 4.15 shows their opinions about the role of council for health service facilities. Most of the respondents failed to remember either the city council ever arrange any public participation to get their opinion and to overcome the

limitations for health service facilities where 30% of the respondents even do not know about that issues.

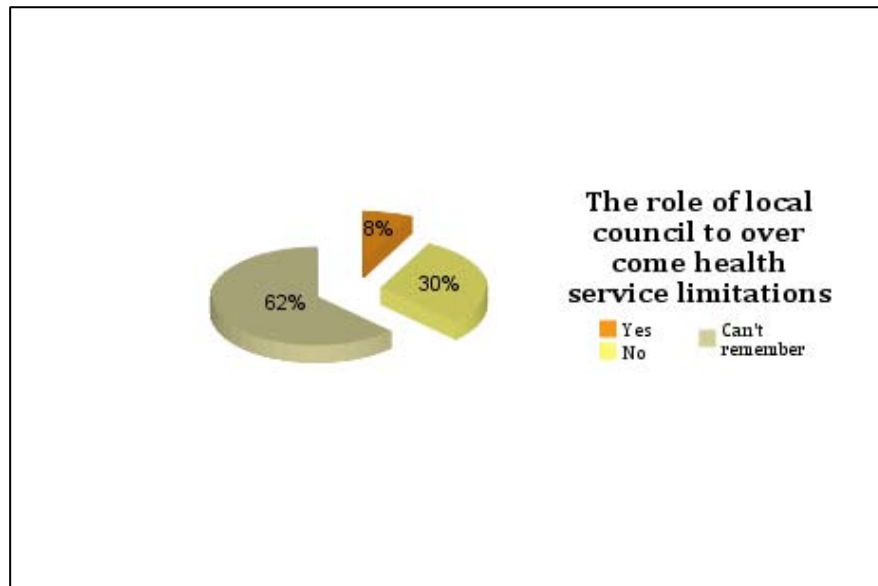


Figure 4.15: The role of local council to overcome the health service limitation through public participation/ consultation.

Under the UK planning system the local planning authorities has arrange free and better health service facilities for the residents, but it is rather important to have common people opinions and need to give the best service to the residents, as the common people know better what service they need and how they can afford the service. The health service facilities have proven that public consultation/participation is one of the important components in the planning system to provide better public services.

4.7 Public service facilities

In this study the major sector that considered under the public service facilities is the public transportation service. In both the city councils public transportation especially the bus services is the 2nd most popular mode of transport to travel to work. In Manchester about 38.1% work in the city area and they prefer bus as a mode of transport to go to work. Same for Trafford about 10.7% of the total working population use to travel by the public transportation (Census 2001). Therefore the public transportation facility has chosen in this study to assess the level of equity for the respondents.

The main considerations to assess the public transportation under this study are availability, accessibility and affordability of public transportation system. Usually the public transportation system is operated and maintained by the private sector but the council is also associated with the system to ensure better and accessible transportation for the residents.

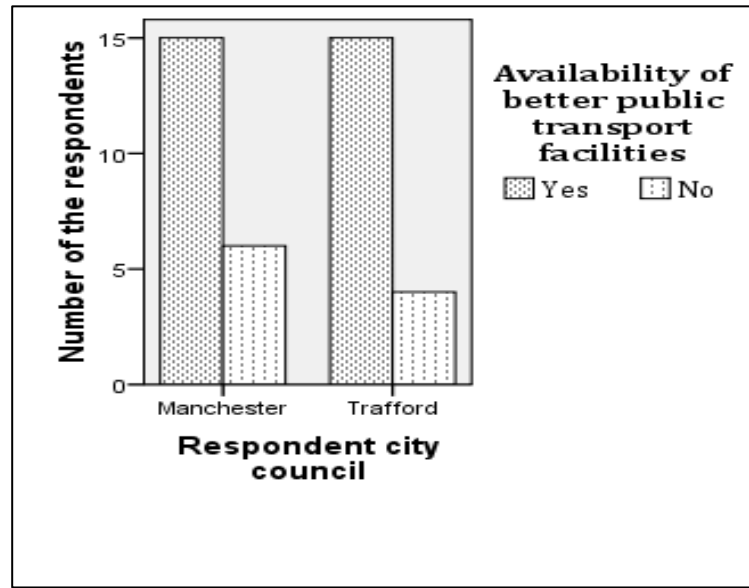


Figure 4.16: Availability of public transport facilities.

According to the figure 4.16 most of the respondents (75%) from both the city council are agreed that there are better public transportation facilities in both the city council, including bus, tram (metro link) and train services. Only certain percent feel that the transportation facilities is not available at the door stop or not allow to travel every corner of the city, has to change to another mode of transport.

The other most important concerns are either this public transportation system is affordable and accessible, without those two public transportation system can never serve the best.

Table 4.10: There are better public transport facilities * The transport system is affordable and accessible Crosstabulation.

		The transport system is affordable and accessible		Total
		Yes	No	
There are better public transport facilities	Yes	8	22	30
	No	4	6	10
Total		12	28	40

Therefore the respondents' opinions are collected to assess either the present public transportation system is within their affordable limit and easily accessible, when they have mentioned that there is a better public transportation facilities are available (figure 4.16).

The table 4.10 is showing the cross table assessment that how many respondents are feeling that the available public transportation system is affordable and accessible for all. The term affordability mainly covers the transport fare and accessibility covers access to the transport mode, especially for the disable person, elderly, women and kids.

According to the table 4.10 total 30 respondents out of 40 feel there are better public transport facilities for the residents, but 28 of them feel that transportation facilities are not affordable and accessible. The respondents mainly remark that the fare of public transport is not affordable for all and always increasing and the transport mode is not designed for the disabled person especially who are traveling with wheelchair. One of the respondents from Manchester made his comment on public bus services as follows,

“in his ten years life in Manchester the public bus fare has increased at least 4 times but the salary has increased only once. Usually the public bus fare increase about a pound each time and they never explain why the fare has increased. More over so many different companies are operating the public bus service and they have different rate, it seems no one monitor them as well none of the public bus service has better facilities for disabled and elderly people. Rather the congested and narrow bus designs force the disabled and elderly people not to use the services”.

Manchester City Council total 25.2% of the working population use the public transport mode (usually the bus service) to travel from home to work and 10.7% in Trafford City Council (Census 2001). In MCC out of that 25.1% workers 58.3% are women who use the public transport to travel to their work place (Census 2001a). Further more the percentage of the elderly population in Manchester and Trafford City Councils are 6.4% and 7.7% respectively and they need better supportive service to travel while using public transport mode (Census 2001). On the other hand in this research it has been seen that about 70% (table 4.10) of the respondents feel the transportation services is not enough to meet the need, especially there are not well designed and provide support for the women, disabled and elderly citizens.

The equity issues for public transportation facilities consider the over all equity not for the immigrant communities because there are disabled, elderly and women both in immigrant communities as well as in the main stream. The limitations of public transportation facilities are equal for all.

4.8 Community involvement and participation

The South Asian communities in both the city councils are mostly associated with different community organizations. Culturally the South Asian communities are oriented to live in a communal form that belong the same culture and religion. Here in UK they also live in a same form and involved with different community organization and mostly local level community organization form by the community members with same culture and religion.

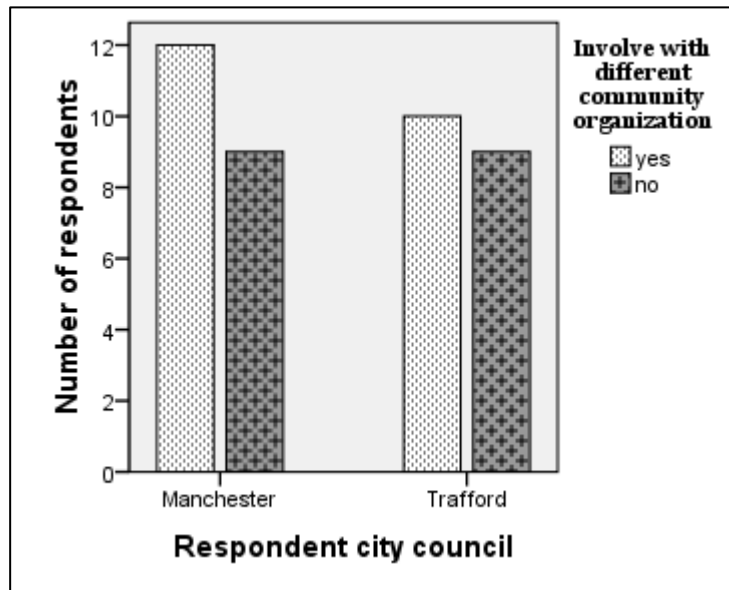


Figure 4.17 Respondent's involvement with different community organizations.

About 55% (22) of the total respondents are involved in different organizations and 45% of them are not involved with any organizations. The above figure 4.17 shows the involvement of the respondents in different community organization in both the city councils. In the MCC more than half of the respondents are involved with community organizations, whereas in the TCC the ration of community involvement and not involvement is almost same.

Moreover all the respondents are not involved with the local community organization rather some of them are associated with local volunteer organization to work for the social welfare not for a particular community. The following table 4.11 shows number of respondents who are involved in different community organizations for social welfare and community benefits.

Table 4.11: Involve with different community organization * The type of community organization Crosstabulation.

		The type of community organization		Total
		Volunteer	Local Community/Social-welfare	
Involve with different community organizations	yes	7	15	22
Total		7	15	22

The community participation or called public participation is an instrument to ensure equity and better service accessibility for the residents under the current planning system because of the diversity economic activities, ethnicity and the diversity of cultural. In a simple way community participation in the planning process is a genuine interchange between the citizens

and the planners and planning authorities. That is a two-edge sword, the local planning authorities and planner must be open to work with the citizens and citizens must be active and competent in planning.

In this study community participation also assessed to justify either the local council arrange enough community participation or the immigrant communities have enough opportunities to say their opinion to the local planning authorities to ensure equity in the society. A cross tabulation analysis has made to assess either the city councils failed to arrange the community participation to make the decision or the immigrant communities failed to join the councils. The following table 4.12 presents the role of city councils and the immigrant respondents in community participation.

Table 4.12: City councils ever arrange the public participation or community participation * The respondent ever join any community participation arranged by the City council Crosstabulation.

		The respondent ever join any community participation arranged by the City council			Total
		Yes	No	Can not remember	
City council ever arrange the public participation or community participation	Yes	1	6	0	7
	No	5	18	0	23
	Can't remember	2	8	0	10
Total		8	32	0	40

According to the community participation data only 7 respondents out of 40 said yes there were some scale of public participation arranged by the city councils and more than 50% (23) respondents said no, whereas 32 (80%) respondents never joined any public participation or community participation program. The dilemma here is the council did not take enough initiatives for community participation even they did, the immigrant communities failed to join there and raise their opinions.

According to a community worker in Trafford City Council

“the limitations of immigrants from South Asian communities are they do not like to open up beside their community. More over a good number of them do not want to provide all their information to the council. They are afraid either they will be charged more or they might lose some opportunities as they are having now without informing the council. Furthermore their cultural, social and religion sensitivity do not let them come and talk rather they feel what they have and know is good enough for their sustaining. That is the main limitation that councilor and the community workers cannot reach them to have their opinion.”

In the contrary the respondents feel like

“the council arrange the community participation within those organization working with them and they formed for citizen betterment. The council never arranges such thing where they can meet the common people rather the community organizations represent the council opinion. Therefore council never get the views from the immigrant communities and the community members never feel like join or get chance to join the community participation process.”

The Manchester City Council has started “Community Network Empowerment (CEN)” in 2001 to enable the community and voluntary sectors to participate in Local Strategic Partnership. Community Empowerment Networks are expected to play a central role in the delivery of neighborhood renewal, bringing together community and voluntary sector stakeholders and ensuring that there is coherence and direction across all neighborhood renewal community engagement activities (MCC 2008).

The city councils have options and policy to arrange public participation at the decision making level and they organize public or community participation campaigning, but due to the way of approach to the immigrant communities and the limitations of that particular community failed to develop a bridge between the community and the council and the local planning authority to ensure the best service to the community members. It seems community participation is the core principal to ensure equity under the current planning system.

Chapter 5. Planning practice and social equity.

5.1 Social equity

Sustainable and equitable development means there has to be some opportunities and options for societies to improve their quality of life. To ensure social equity it is important to identify the main components that constitute an improve quality of life for the community without jeopardizing the interest of others. Based on this social sustainability concept the relative importance of the components of life is determined, then policies aimed at providing and sustaining those components can be developed.

The relative components of a better living environment can be defined from different perspectives and vary for different communities, but the accesses for the four major components are the same for all the communities or societies to ensure sustainability and the quality of life. Those components are:

- housing
- health
- education and
- employment

The problem of equity is closely related with the basic needs satisfaction, therefore equity becomes a priority component of human quality of life (Badsha 1996). In a diverse society equity can be defined as a condition in which promote

- I. facilities for all the residents a condition of life beyond that of bare survival,
- II. the limitation of unequal distribution of power, resources and benefits
- III. promote a sufficient degree of participation at the decision making level and have opinions for social and community benefits (Badsha 1996).

Therefore to understand the equitable level in the two city councils under this study, it must be understood that inequities exist at local community level. New strategies and policy approach can only be recommended to achieve equity and sustainability at the local level planning system when the levels of inequities are understood. Therefore based on the analysis in the previous chapter a sustainable indicator matrix has been developed in this chapter. The aim of the sustainable indicator matrix is to understand the level of equities and inequities for the selected components that ensures quality of life for the immigrant communities in the two city councils.

5.2 Sustainable indicator matrix

In this study a sustainable indicator matrix has been developed to justify the equity level on those selected components for quality of life as well as the level of public participation at the decision making level to make a comparison between Manchester and Trafford City Council. The main components of quality of life are considered to assess the equity in this study are

- i) housing,
- ii) health,
- iii) education
- iv) employment and
- v) level of public participation.

These five components are assessed and weighted under different sub-categories based on selected criteria like affordability, accessibility, equal opportunities availability; take part in the decision making and community involvement and activities etc.

The indicator matrix has been developed based on the respondents' opinions on those sub-categories. The respondents' opinions are weighted according to their level of satisfaction, means either the respondent is satisfied with the service facilities provided by the city council or the service facilities are lower than their expectation to livelihood. The principal consideration that is followed to weight the sub-categories is the number of respondent who express their views on a particular issue. It is assumed if more than 60% of immigrant respondents are satisfied with service facilities provided by the council and have the opportunities to take part in the planning and decision making process is considered that the council ensure equality and success to meet the needs of their maximum residents. Based on that assumption those selected sub-categories are valued from -2 to +2. The highest weight 2 is given when more than 60% of the respondents are satisfied or received the service facilities at their level of expectation and the lowest weight -2 is considered when only 0-15% of the respondents are satisfies or received the service facilities. The weights are measured for every sub-category to assess the equity and satisfaction level of the respondents for every component of quality of life provided by the city councils. Moreover the values of those sub-categories are classified according to the city councils, therefore the average weighted values are also considered to make a comparison between the city councils. Following are the weighted criteria that are used to develop the indicator matrix in this study. Then the average weighted value has calculated to get the level of equity and satisfaction.

1. If more than 60% of the respondents have their opinions on a particular issue it is weighted as 2. $< 60\% = 2$.
2. If 45% to 60% of the total respondents have their opinion it is weighted as 1. That is $45\%-60\% = 1$.
3. If 30% to 45% have their opinion on a particular issue then it is weighted as 0. That is $30\%-40\% = 0$.
4. Either 15% to 30% of the respondents have their opinion it is weighted as -1. That is $15\%-30\% = -1$.
5. Either less than or at least 15% respondents have their opinion then it is weighted as -2. That is $>10\% = -2$.

After giving weight to each sub-category, all the weighted values under each component (housing, education, etc) are added together and divided by the number of sub-categories to get the average weighted value for the main component. The average weighted value represents the percentage of the respondents who are satisfied or not satisfied with that particular component or service facilities received from the city council and the level of equity achieved by the respective city council.

For example the “Housing” component has 4 sub-categories (table 5.1) and the respondents have their opinion on each sub-category. Based on the percentage of the respondents the sub-categories are weighted and then average weighted value presents the satisfaction and the level of equity of the housing facilities provided by two of the city councils. The following equation shows the level of satisfaction and equity calculation under the sustainable indicator matrix.

$$\text{Level of satisfaction and equity} = \left[\frac{\sum \text{weighted value of sub-categories}}{N} \right] \dots (i)$$

Where N = Number of sub categories under each main component or service facilities

Note: If the average value is a fraction and the fraction is more than <0.5 then the next integer number or if the fraction value is less than >0.5 then the previous integer number has been considered to calculate the level of satisfaction and equity for that particular component or service facility.

Furthermore from the sustainable matrix also could use to assess the level of opportunities received by the communities to take part in the decision making process and how the councils arrange to introduce an interactive planning process with the community members especially the ethnic minority. Therefore it could be easier to measure the equity level, the level of

service facilities and the level of community satisfaction and active public participation through the sustainable matrix and necessary policy approaches could be developed based on the matrix value.

The following table 5.1 shows the sustainable indicator matrix for this study. Under the sustainable indicator matrix the five major components in the current planning system are considered, and each of the component is classified under different sub-categories to get the respondents' opinion for each sub-categories to assess their level of satisfaction for that particular component and to make a comparison between two of the city councils to identify how much services they could ensure for the immigrant communities and what is the level of equity they achieved under the current planning system.

Table 5.1: Sustainable indicator matrix to assess the components to ensure equity.

Components and the level of satisfaction		Manchester		Trafford	
		Total respondents 20		Total respondents 20	
		Satisfied/Y	Not-satisfied/N	Satisfied/Y	Not-satisfied/N
Housing	Quality and safety	2	1	2	-2
	Affordability	1	2	2	2
	Living environments	2	1	0	-2
	Availability	0	2	2	-2
	Average of the weighted value	1	2	2	-1
Health	Satisfaction	2	-1	2	2
	Accessibility	2	-1	2	2
	Improvement over the time	0	2	-1	1
	Average of the weighted value	1	0	1	2
Education	Better quality	1	2	0	2
	Limitation to access higher qualification	-1	2	-1	2
	Opportunity for higher education	2	1	2	2
	Average of the weighted value	1	2	0	2
Employment	Availability	1	2	2	2
	Equal opportunity	0	2	-1	2
	Enough job information	2	1	2	1
	Provide job options	1	2	2	2
	Average of the weighted value	1	2	1	2
Public participation	Community organization	2	2	2	2
	Joining the community participation	-1	2	0	2
	Information about planning strategy	-2	2	-2	2
	Chance to meet the council	0	2	-2	2
	Average of the weighted value	-1	2	-1	2

In the table 5.1 columns are showing the weighted value on the respondents' opinion on different service facilities provided by the councils. Those values represent the percentage of the respondents who have their opinion whether they are satisfied or not.

For example the sub-categories average weighted value for “Housing” component in Manchester City Council is “1” for satisfaction category and “2” for non-satisfied category. The weighted value “1” presents that only 45% of the respondents are satisfied for the housing facilities available by the council where as more than 60% (weighted value “2”) of the respondents are not at all satisfied. For the component “Public Participation”, the weighted value for satisfaction level is “-1” for two of the city councils. That value represents only 15% of the respondents are satisfied with the public participation process arranged by the councils. Whereas more than 60% of the respondents are not at all satisfied and the result proof that both the councils failed to ensure public participation, especially for the South Asian immigrant communities. Without active community participation it is rather hard to ensure equity at the social and community level.

For every major component respondents are satisfied with some of their sub-categories whereas some of them are not satisfied with some other sub-categories. According to the average weighted values of the indicator matrix most of the respondents are not satisfied with the service facilities they received from the local city council or the planning authorities under the current planning system. For some major components the Manchester City Council meet the equity level and the highest satisfaction level of the community like the health sector. Where as in housing sector highest satisfaction level has been achieved by the Trafford City Council and ensures availability and accessibility for housing for all. The following diagram figure 5.1 shows the comparison between the Manchester and Trafford City Council about the service facilities received by the immigrant communities and their level of satisfaction.

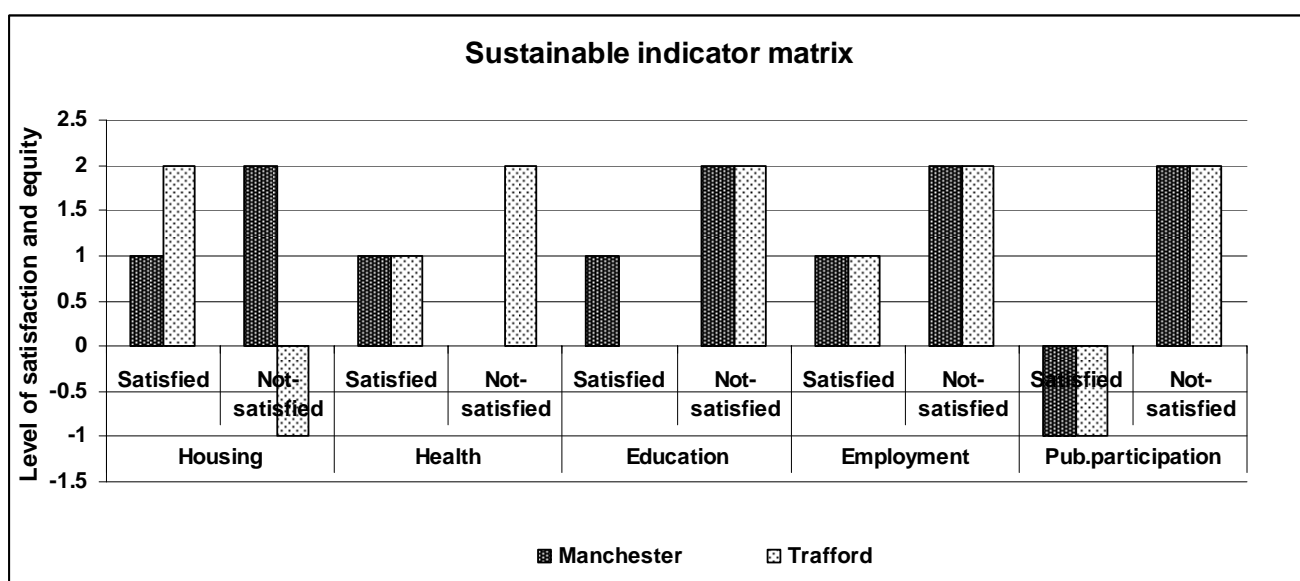


Figure 5.1: The comparison of satisfaction level of different major components between Manchester and Trafford City Council.

According to the figure 5.1, public participation in the decision making level is very few in both the city councils. Most of the residents or the immigrant community members do not have the chance to join any community participation meeting or they do not have any information about the public consultation program arranged by the city councils. According to the figure between 15% to 35% o (-1 weighted value) of the respondents are satisfied with the public participation process introduced by the city councils, whereas more than 60% (weighted value 2) are not at all satisfied with the process.

Both the Manchester and Trafford City Councils have long term planning agendas, agenda 2011 and agenda 2021 respectively but none of the respondents ever heard about the long term planning agenda.

Only a few respondents from Manchester City Council got the opportunity to join the city council community participation practice as they are the members of different community organizations. But the common people who are not associated with any volunteer or community organization ever get a chance to take part or to sound their voice in the council.

5.3 Public participation and local level planning

Social equity and sustainability can only be achieved through the planning system at the local level, when the planning system has the reflection of the local peoples' opinion, the involvement and active participation of the common people. The current planning system in the UK has a strong emphasis on active public participation especially at the local level

The "Green Paper" under the UK planning system opens the provision of the local authorities to push for local community involvement with the development of "Community Strategies" and ensure the community voice to precede the drafting of any new plans, officially called "Local Development Frameworks" (Townsend and Tully, 2004). Both the Manchester and Trafford City Councils have the community strategies to ensure equity for the community and to ensure quality of life through community involvement.

Under the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) Manchester local government plans to work closely together with public, private, voluntary and community organizations to step up services in the city and improve quality of life. But according to this study 57% of the total respondents (immigrant communities) from the Manchester City Council were never informed about the community participation or community involvement strategy arranged by the council (figure 5.1 and table 4.12). The outcome is the same for the Trafford City Council, about 47% of the respondents can not remember that either the city council ever arranged any community participation program and 38% of the respondents do not know about community

participation issues. Table 5.2 shows the percentage of the respondents from Manchester and Trafford City Councils who have their opinion about the community participation arranged by the councils.

Table 5.2: Percentage of the respondents who have their response about the community participation arranged by the city councils.

		Percentage of the respondents have their opinion about community participation arranged by the city councils			
		Yes	No	Can not remember	
Respondents in city councils	Manchester	5%	60%	35%	100
	Trafford	15%	38%	47%	100

In Manchester about 60% of the respondents do not have any idea about community participation and 5% who are related with different community organizations are informed about them whereas 35% of them can not even remember when they last heard about community participation arranged by the council.

The Manchester City Council organized the community participation to inform the local community and to introduce “Local Development Framework: Statement of Community Involvement”. The aim of the statement is to set out how the local communities and stakeholders will be involved (MCC 2006). The city council arranged community participation about the statement from 4 November 2005 to 16 December 2005. The methods the council followed to ensure community participation were:

1. placed ‘on deposit’ in libraries across the city
2. put the issue on the web site for comment
3. copies were made also available for those who requested them
4. distributed the documents through community network.

The council got only 61 representations, although the total population in Manchester is about 392 thousand. Moreover the immigrant communities completely failed to give their opinion even most of them do not heard about participation process. The reasons for that poor participation especially for the immigrant communities are:

1. Most of them do not have access to internet facilities
2. A certain portion are not educated enough to comment on government policy
3. More than 45% of the respondents are not involve with any community organizations (figure 4.17), therefore they failed to get information from the community organizations

The current planning system in the UK has a strong policy to involve the community in the local level planning issues, but the methods or techniques used by the local authorities failed to achieve the goal. Therefore the general citizen especially the ethnic minority communities are not well informed or aware about the planning system and there always prevails an inequity and a gap between the community and the planning system.

5.4 Current planning and partnership for equity

The new spatial planning system is aimed to achieve sustainability therefore the strategic planning is tasked to provide effective social, economic and environmental outcomes and requires the planners to act as a facilitators while working with the different of stakeholders and community members, community organizations and agencies to ensure better services and equity at the local level. The Local Development Frameworks (LDFs) set out to collectively deliver the spatial planning strategy for the local planning authorities to guarantee public collaboration in the decision making to ensure equity for service delivery (RTPI, 2007).

The planning White Paper introduced the new role of the local authorities to act as ‘place shapers’ to face the development challenges in a co-ordinate way. Based on the White Paper the effective partnership with the community could be enhanced with the following techniques

- the local planning authority will prepare Local Area Agreement (LAA)
- make a clear statement that ensure collaboration between Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) and all other local and regional plan
- streamlining the procedure for involving the communities in the development process of SCSs, LAAs and LDFs.
- Improving and integrating the strategic planning procedures.

According to the White Paper the local planning authorities or the city council has to pay much attention to the planning contribution to achieve the goal of LAA. One of the major components to achieve the LAA target is to ensure “Social inclusion”. The social inclusion issue covers the equal access to public service and facilities, access to employment, housing quality and housing provision, affordable energy, health and medical facilities and involving the community in the plan making process (RTPI 2007).

According to this study, the two city councils cannot achieve the target of social inclusion especially for the immigrant communities. According to the sustainability indicator matrix in table 5.1 and the figure 5.1 the level of satisfaction is quite low especially for the social inclusion components. Both city councils have their planning strategies based on the planning

White Paper but they failed to communicate to the local residents through an effective public participation. The participation methods and techniques used by the councils failed to reach to the local community especially the immigrant communities.

Lack of public participation for the immigrant communities and their involvement in the decision making process increase the inequality, though the city councils tried to provide better service facilities under their LSP long term agenda.

5.5 The limitations

The current planning system in the UK has a clear strategic approach to involve the community in the decision making and plan implementation process. Both city councils have developed their strategic approach to introduce public participation under the LSP approach but in the case of immigrant communities they failed to ensure an effective community participation at the decision making level. The limitations that the council community and planning officer failed to ensure effective community participation for the immigrant communities are;

1. The South Asian immigrant communities are more associated with their own communities and motivated by their cultural and ethical values.
2. They are usually not interested to be with the main stream and come up to meet the public participation
3. It is rather better to reach the community through their community organization rather individual.
4. Certain numbers of the immigrant communities are involved with different low profile profession without proper approval and they are afraid to raise their voice.
5. The language and cultural barrier is one of the main limitations that not let the community members especially the elderly and women to come up with their opinions. (Ms. Frances Tagoe, Community network development coordinator, Manchester City council)

The other important issue that let the planners not to ensure active public participation that is the community groups is more concern over raising expectation that some time the council failed to fulfill due to lack of time and resources.

There are also some limitations to ensure active public participation faced by different city councils like public consultation as a means to economic efficiency rather than a commitment to ideology of civic engagement (Townsend and Tully, 2004).

On the other hand some time the council authorities try to avoid active participation because

they feel public participation slow down the decision making process, increase bureaucracy, add additional cost to the implementation process and raise the conflict between the communities (Lowndes et al, 2001).

Furthermore the methods or techniques used by the city councils for active participation are not always encouraging to the communities to take part and make their decisions. Therefore the public participation approach needs to be a two-way approach, where the council authority has to act as a facilitator and the local community needs to be an active part of the decision making process to ensure better service for the community and to ensure equity. As long as the council can not make sure active participation in the decision making process and the local communities do not come up enthusiastically to take part in the planning process it is hard to meet the social sustainability and to ensure equity under the existing planning system.

Chapter 6. Recommendations and Conclusion.

6.1 Recommendations

Social equity can only be ensured when it is possible to understand the level of social inequities and their reasons. The local community, they can only draw their opinion what they feel and what they accept from the planning system. As well the planning authorities have to express their opportunities and limitation to incorporate public opinion in the plan making decision implementation process. Therefore an effective participation is very much important to incorporate in the planning system to ensure the best planning service and equity.

6.1.1 Public participation and planning

Reducing inequity and increasing the ability of all segments of society to participate and make decision for the community is the focus of the UK planning system. The Skeffington report “People and Planning” published in 1960s is the historical indicator of public participation in the UK planning system. Later publicity and consultation became an obligatory component of the statutory planning system to make much room for the local communities to comment and object to development plan and planning application (Townsend and Tully, 2004).

In the current planning system, sustainable development is the core principle to introduce a sustainable, innovative and productive economy with equal employment opportunities, promoting the social inclusion issues, like housing, education, health. The Local Development Frameworks under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 has developed as a planning folder by the UK government with a clear statement called “Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)”, which sets out the major ways to involve the community members and the stakeholders in developing and delivering the local planning policy (RTPI 2007).

Since the 60’s public participation has become a key component for the local level planning and by the 2004, public involvement had become a part of the statutory planning system, but yet had not been practiced very effectively at the community level. The limitations that are identified from this study are the active participation techniques. Because both the Manchester and the Trafford City Councils have diversity in culture, religion and ethnicity therefore the participation techniques need to be different rather than the traditional approach.

The LDF drew a complete strategy to incorporate the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) to ensure community participation and involvement at the local level, but there are no specific guidelines for public participation techniques. The local planning authority has to decide the participation techniques to involve the community it plans and decision making process to ensure social equity. Figure 6.1 shows the components specified under the LDF to incorporate the SCS to ensure public participation at the local level planning to achieve sustainable planning goals.

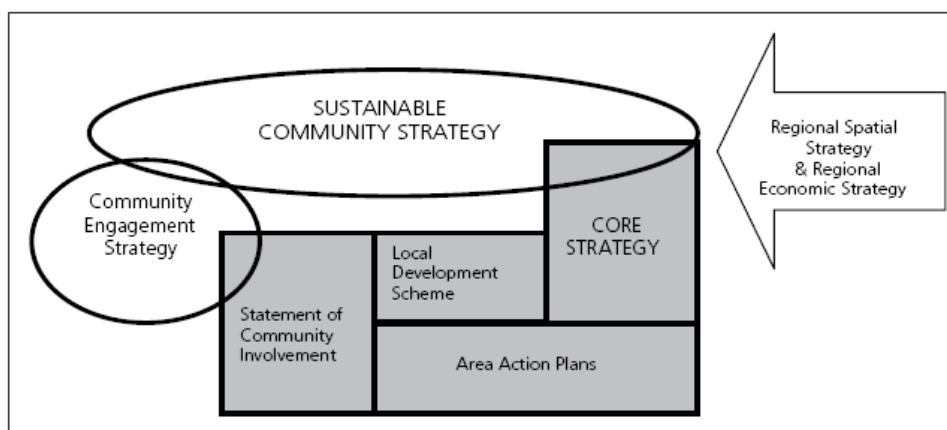


Figure 6.1: The LDF's components for Sustainable Community Strategies.

The above figure 6.1 has a clear demonstration how the local planning authority will incorporate SCS and what would be the Community Engagement Strategy (CES), now the city councils have to design the methods to ensure active participation and to involve the community and their voice to ensure equity to meet the sustainability goal.

6.1.2 Pathway to ensure equity

Both the Manchester and Trafford City Councils have long term strategies approach to meet the sustainable planning goal and to ensure social equity by 2010 and 2021 respectively. According to this study the city councils cannot meet the equity level especially for the South Asian immigrant communities as they fail to involve them in the decision making process. The limitations of active public participation methods constrain the process to ensure public participation and without active participation it is hard to get the public opinion and to assess their needs and desire to ensure equity.

To ensure equity in the planning system it is rather important to recognize the inequities that exists both the interspatial and interpersonal levels. Then the second step is to engage the community members to participate in the decision making process that affects their living and livelihood. The methods to adopt to minimize the inequities are:

- I. Optimizing the contribution of the community member who can, do, or might contribute urban services like, housing, health, education etc.
- II. Maximizing people's choice in how and what type of urban services they feel to meet their requirements.
- III. Making a balance with public opinions and demands with the resources and available facilities exist in the local development and planning authorities, mean the councils (Badsha 1996).

Therefore it has been clearly distinguished that active public participation is one of the key factors to diagnosis the inequities in the planning system and it also helps to draw a guide line to achieve the equity level.

The active public participation means providing specific information of the current policy and the policy to be implemented to the parties involved parties early in the policy development process. It essentially smoothes the policy and minimizes the implementation cost. There are different types of methods of public participation and it is the local planners and community network development coordinator s' responsibility to justify which one could meet the best requirements based on the social and cultural diversity in the society. Following are the different types of participation methods according to Lowndes, *et al.* (2001)

1. **Traditional:** consulting documents and public meetings
2. **Consumerist:** aspects concerned with delivery of services, ie satisfaction survey
3. **Forums:** a regular dialogue with interest group.
4. **Constructive innovations:** citizen;s panels, citizen juries and web-based interaction
5. **Deliberative innovations:** community based planning, needs analysis and vision

The most common public participation methods practiced both in Manchester and Trafford City Council are "Traditional" and "Constructive innovation". Those methods some time fail to encourage the local people to participate in the plan-making process; especially the immigrant communities express very little interest in such a participation process. Only a certain group of people who have high chance to be affected by the new decision and who are associated with different community organizations and link up with city councils join such processes. Such participation never reflects the mass community opinions and never ensures equity at the planning system.

The Manchester and Trafford City Council have big immigrant communities with cultural, language diversity; therefore they have to introduce such participation methods that reflect everyone's voice. For example "Forum" and "Deliberative innovation" always have feedback and direct conversation with the planning authorities and the community. Both of them help each other to understand the potential and limitation of the plan making process. Furthermore arranging active participation is not enough; it is also the responsibilities of the planning authorities to justify whether the participation process meets their target and goal. Table 6.1 shows the evaluation methods of public participation methods.

Table 6.1: Public participation evaluation techniques.

A. Participants	1. nature, number, type of participating groups;
	2. role of the 'poor' and 'minority' groups;
	3. effectiveness of the advisory groups;
	4. responsiveness of public officials to the participating groups;
B. Process	5. nature of the participation program-number and type of involvement activity;
	6. appropriateness and opportunity for exchange of information, views, comments on drafts, etc;
	7. accessibility to public officials by participating groups and individuals;
C. Procedure	8. steps taken to encourage public for involving;
	9. provision of technical and/or financial assistance to participating groups to facilitate meaningful contribution to the plan-making process

Source: Ahsan 2007.

According to table 6.1, the local planning authorities have played a very effective role in ensuring community for the sake of equity where everyone has their opinion and every one has the right to get the equal chances to ensure better quality of life to meet the sustainability goal.

6.2 Conclusion

This research has been conducted to identify the social equity level for the South Asian immigrant communities both in Manchester and Trafford City Council based on some selected components under the UK planning system. A field-based structured questionnaire interview has been conducted in order to get the respondents opinion about different spatial planning components like housing, education, health, employment, public service facilities and participation at the planning and decision making level.

Based on public opinion a complete assessment has been made based on different statistical packages like SPSS and Excel to get the equity level for different services provided by the local planning authorities. The respondents in this study are from different origin and with different cultural and social background. About 405 of the total respondents are originated from Bangladesh, 27% and 23% of them are originated from Pakistan and India respectively. Only a few 4% are from Srilanka. Among them only 20% are UK citizen by birth where as about 30% are in UK through working visa or HSMP visa. According to the respondents' opinions the Manchester City Council cannot meet the housing demand for their residents especially for the rapid growing immigrant communities. About 70% of the respondents in Manchester are accommodated in rental or share accommodation as there are not enough council provided housing as well it takes a long to get a council housing. Whereas in Trafford City Council has minimum number of immigrant communities about 4.3% of the total residents and the council provide better housing facilities for all, more than 70% respondent have own their own house in Trafford.

The Joint Health Unit in Manchester City Council is working to ensure best quality health service facilities and to ensure equity that every residents could have the access to the health facilities. More than 85% of the total respondents from the Manchester City Council are completely satisfied about the health facilities they are receiving from the city council. Both the city councils provide better health service facilities and ensure accessibility for all, more than 70% of the total respondents from both the councils are satisfied with health service facilities. The major limitations have been marked by the respondents in the health service facilities are: I). not having frequent doctor appointment, II) shortage of specialist in the community health centers.

The South Asian immigrant communities are mostly deprived in employment sector. Out of 95% respondents' about 75% of them feel that the immigrant communities are not getting equal opportunities in the job market to sustain there livelihood. According to the respondent, the government and the city council authorities failed to open new job market for the growing population therefore the immigrant communities failed to get themselves employed. On the

contrary a certain portion (26%) of the respondents feel there are too many unskilled immigrants from South Asian countries who failed to meet the job requirements and unemployed.

One of the major limitations that have been identified under this research for both the city councils is the community involvement process in the decision making and planning process. The South Asian immigrant communities are associated with different local community organizations, mainly organized by the same community having same religious belief, language and culture and only a few of them are associated with the community organization formed by the councils. Though there are clear statement and option in the current UK planning system to incorporate the local communities, especially the ethnic minority in the decision making system, but both the councils failed to meet the goal. In this study about 57% of the total respondents even have no idea either the city councils have the public participation option where they can have their decision. About 80% respondents never join any public participation process arranged by the councils, either they are not well informed or they do not feel the importance of participation.

According to the respondents' the methods used by the city councils to organize public participation is not clear as well as accessible for the immigrant communities. The councils arrange the participation process through internet, in the library and involving the local community organization. The immigrant communities who are not involved with any community organizations failed to get the information, and who do not have internet access failed to give their opinions. Therefore there always an information gap between the immigrant communities with the city council and council failed to get their voice and they failed to reflect their opinion in the decision making process. Public participation or involvement is one of the most effective tools in the democratic planning process to involve the community in the planning process to ensure equity and level of satisfaction for the residents. Therefore in this research different assessments have conducted to justify the satisfaction level of the respondents on various service facilities provided by the city council to justify the public involvement in the planning process.

The sustainable indicator matrix has developed to assess the level of satisfaction of the services that ensure quality of life. The aim of the sustainable indicator matrix is to assess the limitations of ensuring social equity and to make a comparison between the Manchester and Trafford City Council. The study findings concluded that there are limitations in the public participation process in both the city councils.

There are clear strategic approaches to ensure public participation in the current UK planning system to ensure equity and achieve sustainability. The current planning system in UK also

reviewed in this research to understand the link between public participation process and the planning system. The LDF has clearly state the strategic approach to incorporate SCS to get the community voice and their active participation in the decision making process, but there is no specific guide lines are given to introduce alternative participation methods or techniques to meet the target. There are different public participation methods are practiced and available but it is the responsibility of the city councils to adopt the most effective and practical one to get every one in the society to be involved in the planning and decision making process.

This study also recommends the alternative public participation methods for the Manchester and Trafford City Councils as both the city councils have diversity in their residents and they also have to justify the participation process to ensure equity even in the participation process.

This research could be a guide line for the further studies and research in the filed of planning public participation issues. The findings can guide local planning authorities and the further researchers to understand the role of planning authorities and the immigrant communities to make up the gaps between the communities and the planning authorities. Moreover this research could be a reference for the sustainable planning approach in the UK planning system to address social sustainability and equity in the decision making phase.

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Appendix 1.

Questionnaire to understand the social equity level for the community

Questionnaire ID []

(This questionnaire will use only for study purpose and the data will not disclose to any organization or any authority)

City council: Manchester [] Trafford []

1. Basic demographic information:

1.1 Name of the respondent: _____

1.2 Origin: India [] Pakistan [] Bangladesh [] Srilanka [] Nepal []

1.3 Nationality pattern: by birth [] by marriage [] high skill migration [] working Visa []

1.4 Year of residence: 5 or less than 5 years [] 6 to 10 years [] 10 to 15 year [] > 15 years []

Occupation and Earning:

Employment		Earning (p.c.m)	
Government employed	[]	>£1000	[]
Self employed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restaurant owner • Shop owner • Post office/service centre • Other business 	[]	£1000-£2000	[]
Employed by Private or Non-governmental organization	[]	£2000-£3000	[]
Unemployed	[]	£3000-£4000	[]
Pension owner	[]	£ 4000-£5000	[]
Community employed:	[]	<£5000	[]

1.5 Education level:

High school/ GCSE [] College [] University [] Other []

2. Community involvement:

2.1 Are you involved with any community or Social- organization? Yes [] No []

2.1.1 If Yes,

- Type of the organization: Volunteer [] Non-Governmental [] Community/social-welfare []
- Name of the organization: _____
- The action of the organization: _____
- Your responsibilities: _____

21.2 .If No,

- Do you have any interest to join any social or community organization? Yes ☐ No ☐
- Do you feel to do some thing for your community for their betterment? Like:
 - Working together for better education ☐ ☐
 - Working together for cultural development ☐ ☐
 - Working together for better health facilities and access to health service ☐ ☐
 - Ensure better facilities for all especially for the elderly and disables, like safe transport, pedestrian, recreation ☐ ☐
 - Working together for better education for the children and job for the youth and young ☐ ☐

2.2 Do you ever hear anything about social or community organizations working for the community?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes,

- Do you know the role/action of the organization?
- Do you know who organize that particular organization: Local community ☐ City Council ☐

3. Access to different opportunities:

3.1 Education

3.1.1 Do you attend/receive any educational program/degree in UK? Yes ☐ No ☐

3.1.1a If yes,

What is the name of the degree/ education program? _____

Are you satisfied with standard of the program and is that affordable by you? Yes ☐ No ☐

If no, what are the limitations you faced:

1. High expenses ☐
2. Higher education is not accessible ☐
3. Get a better opportunity ☐
4. Other reasons: _____

3.1.1b If no,

Any of your family members (children, wife) attend any education/degree program in UK? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes,

What is the name of the degree/ education program? _____

Are you satisfied with standard of the program and is that affordable by you? Yes ☐ No ☐

If no, what are the limitations you faced:

1. High expenses ☐
2. Higher education is not accessible ☐
3. Get a better opportunity ☐
4. Other reasons: _____

3.2 Housing

3.2.1 Are you the owner of your present house or the tenet of the house? Owner ☐ Tenet ☐

3.2.1a If owner

Housing type: Council housing ☐ Private housing ☐

Does the housing location support all the service facilities? Like:

- Access road network
- Public transportation
- Other urban facilities: recreation facilities ☐ shopping facilities (to meet the daily needs) ☐
health care facilities ☐

Does the housing provide better safety and security? Yes ☐ No ☐

Does the housing meet the standard of living environment? Like:

- Space for per/person
- Well oriented
- Ensure adequate air circulation, heating and light

Do you feel; it is easy to own a house with in the affordable limit? Yes ☐ No ☐

If no,

What are the limitations to afford a house in UK?

- There are not enough housing facilities for the residents
- Council doesn't provide enough housing for the immigrants
- The housing cost is beyond the affordable limit

Do you hard any long term housing plan of the city council for the residents? Yes ☐ No ☐

3.3 Employment

3.3.1 Do you feel is there enough employment opportunities for the residents at present? Yes ☐ No ☐

3.3.2 Do the council arrange job fair or trained up sessions for the young and potential employees for there careers? Yes ☐ No ☐

3.3.3 Do the council creates or provides enough information for current and upcoming jobs? Yes ☐ No ☐

3.3.4 Do you feel every one get the same chances to be employed in the current job market? Yes ☐ No ☐

If you feel there are limited jobs or employment opportunities in the present job marker, what could be the reasons for that:

- Job market is getting small in term of population
- Too many unskilled labour to meet the requirements
- Government or Council failed to open new job opportunities
- Other _____

3.4 Health care:

3.4.1 Do you feel the current medical facilities id good enough to meet the requirements? Yes ☐ No ☐

3.4.2 Do you get the easy access to the doctors and they are always available? Yes ☐ No ☐

3.4.3 Do the community Pharmacy meet all the basic requirements for medicine? Yes ☐ No ☐

3.4.4 Do the health care facilities are improving or remain same as it was before when you arrived/past?

Yes ☐ No ☐

3.4.4a If yes,

What are the improvements you have found?

- More doctors and more appointments ☐
- More specialist are working in the health care service ☐
- Appointments are easily available ☐

3.4.4b if no

What are the lacks or shortages you found there

- Not so frequent appointment ☐
- Very few or no specialist ☐
- Not availability of medicine ☐
- Not a better service and not accessible for all ☐

3.4.5 According to your knowledge, does the local authority have ever made any steps to make the health care more accessible and better for the community? Yes ☐ No ☐ Can't remember ☐

3.5 Accessibility of Public Services

3.5.1 There are better public transportation network around the area? Yes ☐ No ☐

3.5.2 Do you feel the public transportation system is accessible and affordable by the residents? Yes ☐ No ☐

3.5.3 The public transportation system is also accessible for the disable and the elderly person? Yes ☐ No ☐

3.5.4 The existing waste management facilities with in the community are acceptable? Yes ☐ No ☐

3.5.5 The present living environment within the community (safety & security) are acceptable? Yes ☐ No ☐

3.5.6 Does the city council ever take any steps to improve the public service facilities and living environment?

Yes ☐ No ☐ can't remember ☐

4. Participation and Consultation

4.1 Does the City council ever arrange any public participation or community participation to get the commons view? Yes ☐ No ☐ can't remember ☐

4.2 Does the city council arrange any community organization/or group to communicate with the local resident to raise their voice in decision making? Yes ☐ No ☐ can't remember ☐

4.3 Do you ever join any community participation or public participation arranged by city council? Yes ☐ No ☐

4.4 Do you ever get the opportunity to consult with the council for any development issues? Yes ☐ No ☐

4.5 Do you inform about the Local Planning Strategies or Community Strategies by the city council for local and community development? Yes ☐ No ☐

4.6 Do you ever inform about any long term planning and strategies (2010 or 2021) of the City council?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Thank you for your kind consideration.