

**Proposer:**

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**Statement of Topic:** Everyday Life Information Behaviour of Bangladeshi Immigrant Women in Canada

**Significance and Relevance of the Topic:**

Immigrants urgently need “information.” Timely information can support their integration and social inclusion into their host countries. On the other hand, lack of critical information may lead to social isolation, depression, and dissatisfaction with their lives in their host countries. Several studies, such as Caidi, Allard and Quirke, 2010, Caidi and Allard, 2005, Quirke, 2011, Esses and Meadianu, 2012, recognize the need for timely information for immigrants to reduce their worries during settlement as well as to ensure their inclusion in host countries.

Very little is known about the information behaviour of diverse women immigrant groups. This pilot study was conducted to shed some light on immigrant women’s information behaviour research, in particular, the study reports the everyday life information behaviour of Bangladeshi immigrant women by illustrating their information needs, information sources, and barriers to information access. Based on the results of this study, the author presents a model for describing everyday life information behaviour of immigrants including factors affecting immigrants’ everyday life information behaviour and how everyday life information behaviour of immigrants is connected to social integration and settlement in their new country. This study is one of the few studies on immigrants’ information behaviour conducted in Canada and is directly relevant to ISIC conference themes.

**Content of the Poster:**

In my poster, I will illustrate some of the key findings of the pilot study. In particular, I will show the Bangladeshi immigrant women’s everyday life information needs, various information sources used by them, and the barriers to their information access. The contents of the poster will be divided into following categories:

*Introduction:* A brief description of the research on immigrants.

*Objective of the Study:* A few lines of the objectives of the study.

*Methodology:* A brief description of the methodology of the pilot study.

*Key Findings:* This will include demographic backgrounds, some quotes illustrating the everyday life information needs, a short description of information sources used by the Bangladeshi immigrant women in Canada, barriers to their information access.

*Proposed Everyday Life Information Behaviour Model:* Based on the results of my pilot study, I propose an *Everyday Life Information Behaviour Model* to capture the everyday life information behaviour of immigrants and to posit the connection between everyday life information behaviour of immigrants and their social integration and settlement. The model illustrates core factors affecting everyday life information needs as well as these core everyday life information needs. These factors are shown to feed into levels of information seeking anxiety, to support or respond to certain kinds of information grounds, and to construct or mediate certain barriers to information access. Furthermore, all of these factors are shown to suggest a continuum of social integration for my participants.

*Conclusion:* A brief discussion on the model and overall findings of the pilot study.

### **Abstract**

This poster illustrates my attempts to model the everyday life information behaviour of a sample of twenty-two Bangladeshi immigrant women living in Toronto, Canada who were between the ages of 25 and 70 years of age. Data were collected through in-depth semi-structured interviews, in the Winter of 2015. In the model, I present the multiple information needs of Bangladeshi immigrant women, the sources they consult to attempt to satisfy their information needs, as well as various factors affecting their everyday life information behaviour. Furthermore, I attempt to show how the phenomenon of information seeking anxiety influences these women's everyday life information practices as they cope with life in their adopted country. The findings of the study show that Bangladeshi immigrant women have diverse everyday life information needs and that their everyday life information needs are affected by several factors including family involvement, dependency on family members, language, social interaction. Amongst my participants there was a high dependency on family members for satisfying day to day information needs which had both benefits and disadvantages. The data from my pilot study also suggest that levels of information seeking anxiety may affect the degree to which participants felt that they were coping with integrating into the social fabric of their new communities.

### **References**

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- Esses, V.M. & Medianu, S. (2012). *Integration barriers and information as a solution: Report based on literature covering 2005-2011 inclusive*. Retrieved from <http://p2pcanada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/Integration-Barriers-and-Information-as-a-Solution.pdf>
- Quirke, L. (2011). Exploring the settlement experiences and information practices of Afghan newcomer youth in Toronto. *Canadian Journal of Information and Library Science*, 35(4), 345–353. <http://doi.org/10.1353/ils.2011.0025>