Studies in Ethnicity

**In association with the Social Science
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'Studies in Ethnicity' emerges out of the work of the Social Science Research Council (SSRC) Research Unit in Ethnic Relations, whether directly or indirectly. It treats ethnicity as both an empirical and a conceptual problem, reporting new studies in ethnic relations and new approaches to the study of ethnicity.

The first titles in the series are:

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Verity Saifullah Khan (ed.): *Minority Families in
Britain*

Minority Families in Britain

Support and Stress

Edited by

Verity Saifullah Khan

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Softcover reprint of the hardcover 1st edition 1979

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First published 1979 by

THE MACMILLAN PRESS LTD

London and Basingstoke

Associated companies in Delhi Dublin

Hong Kong Johannesburg Lagos Melbourne

New York Singapore and Tokyo

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data

Minority families in Britain. – (Studies in ethnicity).

1. Family – Great Britain 2. Minorities – Great
Britain 3. Welfare work with minorities – Great
Britain 4. Family social work – Great Britain

I. Saifullah Khan, Verity II. Series

301.45'1'0941

HQ614

ISBN 978-0-333-26190-3

ISBN 978-1-349-16099-0 (eBook)

DOI 10.1007/978-1-349-16099-0

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Notes on Contributors

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ROGER BALLARD read Social Anthropology at the University of Cambridge. From 1966 to 1968 he did his doctoral research, in a village in the Himalayan foothills, from the University of Delhi. From 1970 to 1975 he was a Research Associate at the SSRC Research Unit on Ethnic Relations at the University of Bristol. During this period he and Catherine Ballard carried out field research in Leeds and the Punjab, India. He was appointed Research Lecturer in Race Relations at the University of Leeds in 1975.

GEOFFREY DRIVER is Visiting Fellow in Race Relations at the University of Bradford. He studied at the University of Nottingham (BA) and at the University of Illinois (MA, Ph D). From 1969 to 1970 he was a research worker at the Bureau of Educational Research, University of Illinois; from 1971 to 1972 he was a teacher in the Social Education Department, William Milliam Murdoch Secondary School, Birmingham; and from 1972 to 1976 he was Senior Lecturer in Sociology of Education, St Peter's College, Birmingham.

ESTHER GOODY is Lecturer in Social Anthropology at Newhall College, University of Cambridge. She has worked mainly in West Africa, especially among the Gonja of Northern Ghana.

CHRISTINE GROOTHUES (née MUIR) graduated in Social Anthro-

pology from the University of Cambridge, and has a Diploma in Social Administration from the London School of Economics. She worked as a Child Care Officer for the London Borough of Southwark for two years before participating in a research project on West Africans in London. Since then she has spent two years in Accra, Ghana, studying child care and development and on her return has worked as a social worker for the Commonwealth Students' Children Society in London.

ROBIN OAKLEY is a Lecturer in Sociology at Bedford College, University of London. His main interests include the sociology of race, ethnicity, migration and comparative sociology. He is editor of *New Backgrounds: the Immigrant Child at Home and at School* (1968).

PHILIP RACK has been Consultant Psychiatrist at Lynfield Mount Hospital since 1967 and has taken particular interest in the psychiatric problems of immigrants in the last five years. He is a member of the United Kingdom Committee of the World Federation for Mental Health, Vice-Chairman of Bradford Community Relations Council, and one of the people who has drawn the attention of psychiatrists to the importance of Transcultural Psychiatry. He was the organiser of the International Congress on Transcultural Psychiatry held in Bradford, Yorkshire, in July 1976, from which many of the papers in this volume have arisen.

VERITY SAIFULLAH KHAN is a Research Associate at the SSRC Research Unit on Ethnic Relations at the University of Bristol. She is a social anthropologist. Her doctoral research is on Pakistani (Mirpuri) villagers in Bradford and involved research in Mirpur, Pakistan, in 1972 and 1973. Her present research project, entitled 'Asian Women and Work', is part of the work of a team studying 'Ethnicity and Work' in South London.

PETER WEINREICH is Principal Lecturer in the Department of Psychology at Ulster College. From 1970 to 1977 he was a Programme Leader at the SSRC Research Unit on Ethnic Relations at the University of Bristol. He has devised an approach for the study of self-concept development in adolescents in a multi-ethnic context and generated a programme of research of which his chapter in this volume reports one aspect.

Preface

The origin of this volume was a conference held in July 1976 in Bradford, Yorkshire, entitled the International Congress on Trans-cultural Psychiatry. Besides the impressive names and numbers of psychiatrists, pharmacologists and doctors, the conference brought together a small group of anthropologists, sociologists and social psychologists who work among ethnic minorities in Britain. Our contribution to the very concrete and specific difficulties faced by psychiatrists and doctors was clear and daunting. We decided that some of the papers presented could form the basis of a volume (C. Ballard, R. Ballard, Saifullah Khan and Weinreich). The organiser of the conference, Dr Philip Rack, kindly supported the plan and contributed his own paper. Further papers were sought to extend our subject matter. One was chosen from a conference on family processes held at the SSRC Research Unit on Ethnic Relations at the University of Bristol in early 1977 (Goody). This conference in Bristol provided a further example of the need for a dialogue between academics and practitioners. The impatience that was developing among the latter was for research directly relevant to their problems and interests, and research that was understandable to themselves and other, less involved colleagues. Two other authors were then asked to rewrite existing work for the volume (Oakley, Driver).

Each of the eight papers in the volume considers a particular minority and/or a section of a statutory service which provides a 'service' for minority members. There is a general progression through the volume from those papers focusing on the internal workings of ethnic minorities (first generation and then second generation) to those that look at the relationship between different statutory

services and ethnic minorities. Most of the papers focus on either support or stress at one of the levels outlined in the introduction.

The papers were written by authors of various disciplines – some academic, some practical – and each has branched out beyond the usual confines of his or her sphere of enquiry. It is these two characteristics – the multidisciplinary and applied approach – of the volume which are its distinctive contribution, but they also present added editorial difficulties. However, as indicated at the beginning of the introduction, whatever the weaknesses and difficulties involved, the contributors are determined to point to the strengths and contribution of the exercise.

In this spirit, it is constructive to preface this volume by mentioning a few of the particular problems faced by its editor and contributors. The multidisciplinary nature of the volume and its intention to be readable to a wide variety of practitioners demanded the minimum of complex terminology, and the use of simple concepts that would incorporate the various meanings and the dynamics of the situations under consideration. Hence the notions of support and stress, which all readers can use to examine not only their particular area of work, but also their own lives and relationship with the statutory services.

Academics as well as practitioners may face the serious and delicate problem of upholding the confidentiality of informants. This involves disguising the real identity of informants by the use of pseudonyms, but also has, in certain papers, necessitated the use of composite quotes or case studies. This problem and certain other ethical issues are confounded in this field of enquiry by the possible unintended repercussions of publishing findings which can prove not only personally embarrassing for the persons or populations concerned, but also politically dangerous. Several contributors to this volume have suffered from distortions of their work and findings by the popular press. The most straightforward analysis of situations presented with the intention of improving mutual understanding and putting forward a minority viewpoint can produce, through such intervention, the opposite effect. While breaking the trust and confidence between author and informants, the information may, more seriously, be used in support of arguments and activities working to undermine the fundamental rights of members of minorities, and to exacerbate the degree of hostility between different communities. These problems have led some of the contributors (although not in the case of this volume) to delay publication of material or to seek

publication in a more obscure journal or volume so that it will be less accessible to the 'real' world.

This question may overestimate the influence that social scientists, researchers and practitioners have on the present ethnic relations situation. However, they do indicate very real dilemmas and processes which tend to inhibit communication between practitioners/researchers and minorities, and between researchers and practitioners.

A final example emerged from the question of the categories and labels used to distinguish minority groups. This led to a lot of debate and no clear-cut agreement between contributors. But many of us agree that the categories used by the society at large do not reflect the diversity of existing populations, nor do they correspond to the people's own classification of themselves. We argue, therefore, that where differences exist and specificity and understanding are the aims, social scientists, social workers and others should not reinforce popular misconceptions by using general labels such as 'West Indian' or 'Asian' or even 'Cypriot', even though it may seem to some to be politically expedient. However, this volume addresses itself expressly to many people who use such general categories. Certain contributors felt this to be a justification for the use of general terms as it would facilitate communication, whereas others saw it to be an opportunity to 'put the picture straight'. For others the nature of the research and its setting determined the categories chosen. Each contributor has, therefore, chosen his/her own stance and specified the type and focus of the research undertaken.

I am most grateful to the contributors for allowing their papers to be published in this volume. Ultimate responsibility for the volume is my own and the views presented are not those of the Social Science Research Council nor necessarily those of the SSRC's Research Unit on Ethnic Relations.

V.S.K.