

***Alison Hramiak: Thesis title and abstract***

***Can e-learning provide learning opportunities for Muslim women of ethnic minorities who for cultural reasons prefer not to participate in education by traditional means ?***

**Abstract**

For many students, the specific requirements of their cultural background can serve as a barrier to realising their learning potential. In such cases, the distance to an educational establishment may be more a cultural than geographical mile. Technology may, for some, be the only way to travel this mile, and thus enable learning to take place where once it might have not.

This research involved a small-scale case study focussing on a group of Asian Muslim women in East Manchester studying online using learndirect materials in a centre that is located in a local community centre. Using a grounded theory approach, detailed qualitative life history data from a small number of students was compared with the results from a more widely distributed but briefer questionnaire, and also with external events and documentation to provide a triangulated methodological approach.