

# **Bengali Muslim Cuisine in Dhaka City: Exploring Cultural, Religious, and Social Dimensions**

## **Abstract:**

Food, in its essence, transcends mere biological necessity. It serves as a powerful cultural artifact, a lens through which the intricate tapestry of a community's values, social customs, historical encounters, and collective identity can be meticulously examined. In Bangladesh, a nation shaped by its riverine geography, rich agricultural traditions, and a significant Muslim population, food occupies a particularly central role. This unique convergence has cultivated a distinctive culinary landscape that offers compelling insights into the relationship between religious observance and cultural expression. This study endeavors to provide a comprehensive analysis of Bangladeshi cuisine, exploring its foundational elements, profound socio-cultural significance, and the specific ways in which Islamic dietary laws (Halal and Haram) intersect with and shape local food ways.

The study will explore five key dimensions: the impact of globalization on food preferences, gender roles in culinary practices, socioeconomic influences on food consumption, religious factors shaping diet, and the role of social media in transforming food culture. The study adopts a mixed-methods approach, combining quantitative surveys with qualitative interviews, focus groups, and household case studies. This methodological triangulation allows for capturing both broad patterns and deeper insights into everyday food practices among Dhaka's Muslim communities.

The anticipated findings will illuminate how Bengali Muslim cuisine represents a dynamic cultural practice negotiating between traditional values and contemporary influences. By documenting and analyzing these processes, this research contributes to discussions on cultural identity, religious practice, gender dynamics, and social change in urban Bangladesh. The findings will have implications for understanding the evolving nature of foodways in urban Bangladesh and can inform public health programs, social development policies, and efforts to promote food security and nutritional well-being among diverse communities.