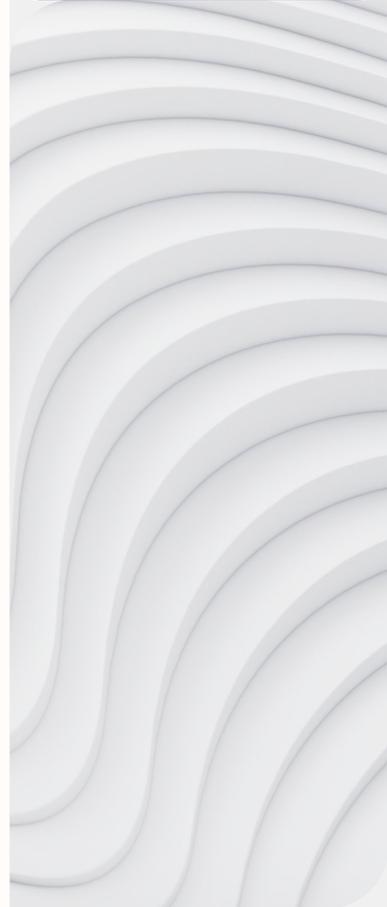




# Generational Connection

*a needfinding report*

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Aimen Ejaz, Angela Wei



# Contents

01

Intro

02

Methodology

03

Results + analysis

04

Next steps

# Meet the team

**Naomi**  
'27



Junior  
CS Major (HCI)  
Morgan Hill, CA

**Aimen**  
'27



Junior  
CS (HCI)  
Lahore, Pakistan

**Mai**  
'25 + '26



BS CS (AI)  
MS CS (HCI)  
San Diego, CA

**Angela**  
'25



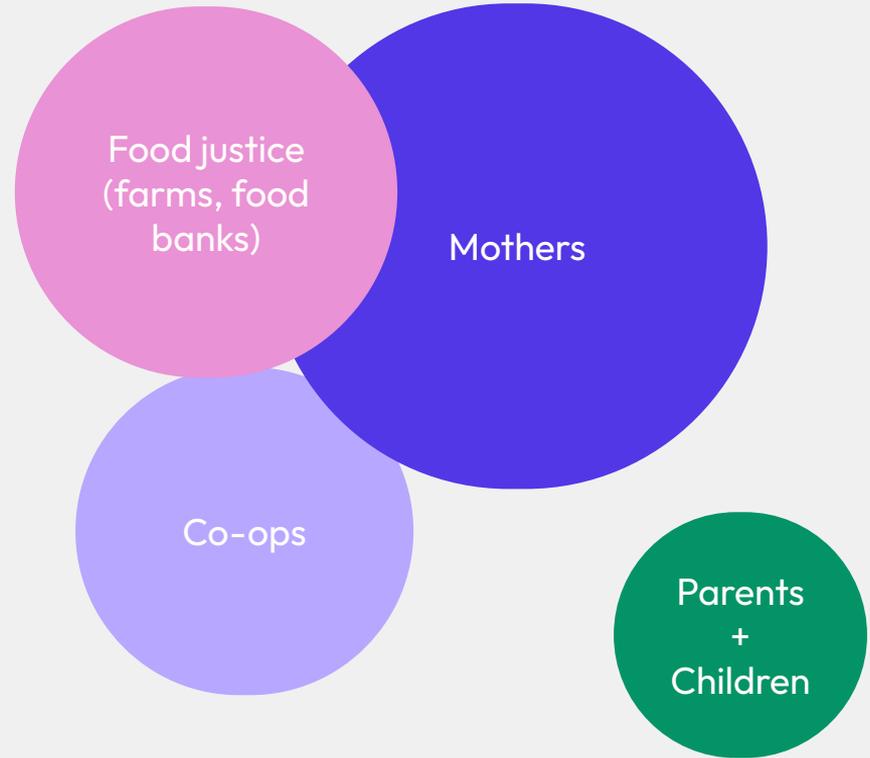
HCI co-term,  
English major  
Palo Alto, CA

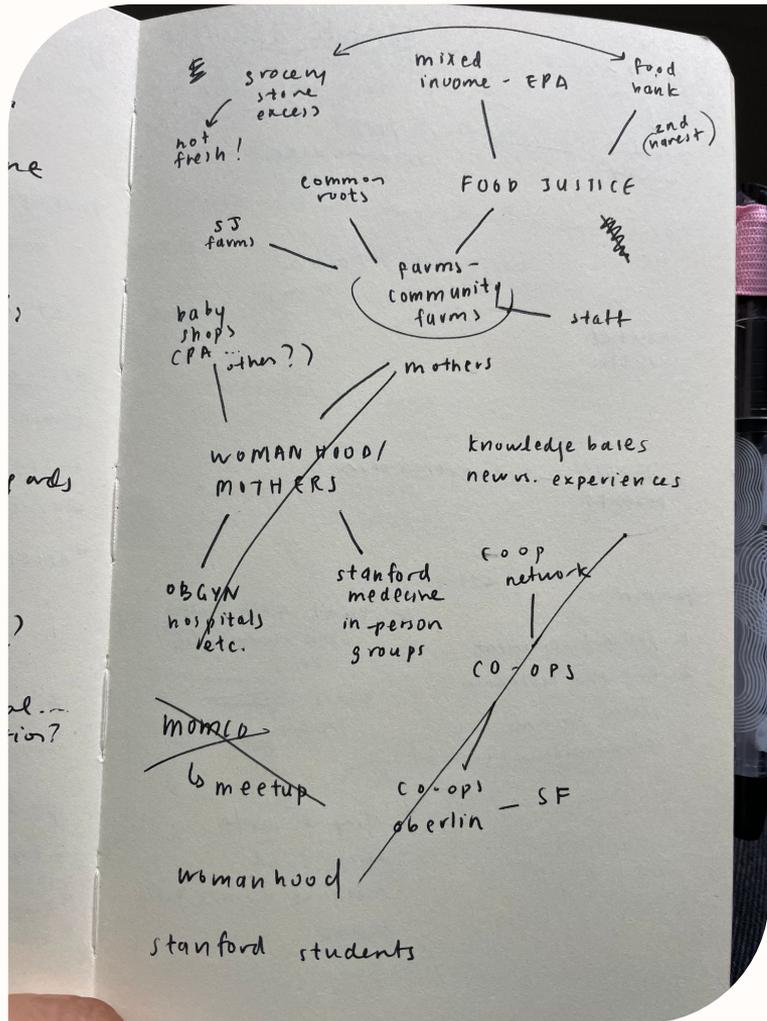
# Domain selection

Is this a real problem?

Has it been made?

Feasibility?





Our messy process

# Participant selection

1

Mixed range of socioeconomic statuses

2

Both parents and children  
(non-Stanford affiliates!)

3

Cultural diversity

# Town and Country!

(Naomi took the photo)



# Questions we asked them

Tell us a bit about yourself.

What does a normal “day” look like for your family?

Are there any family traditions that make you feel closer?

Who do you turn to for support?

Do you feel like you share your feelings with your family?

Is there something you wish they understood about you?

How did your upbringing influence the way you parent?

How do you communicate with your parents/kids?

Our participants' stories

# Our participants

**“Lucia”**  
44

Business owner  
Mother of 3 boys  
Second-gen  
immigrant  
East Palo Alto, CA

**“Ananya”**  
14

High school student  
Grew up in  
Singapore, moved to  
the Bay Area

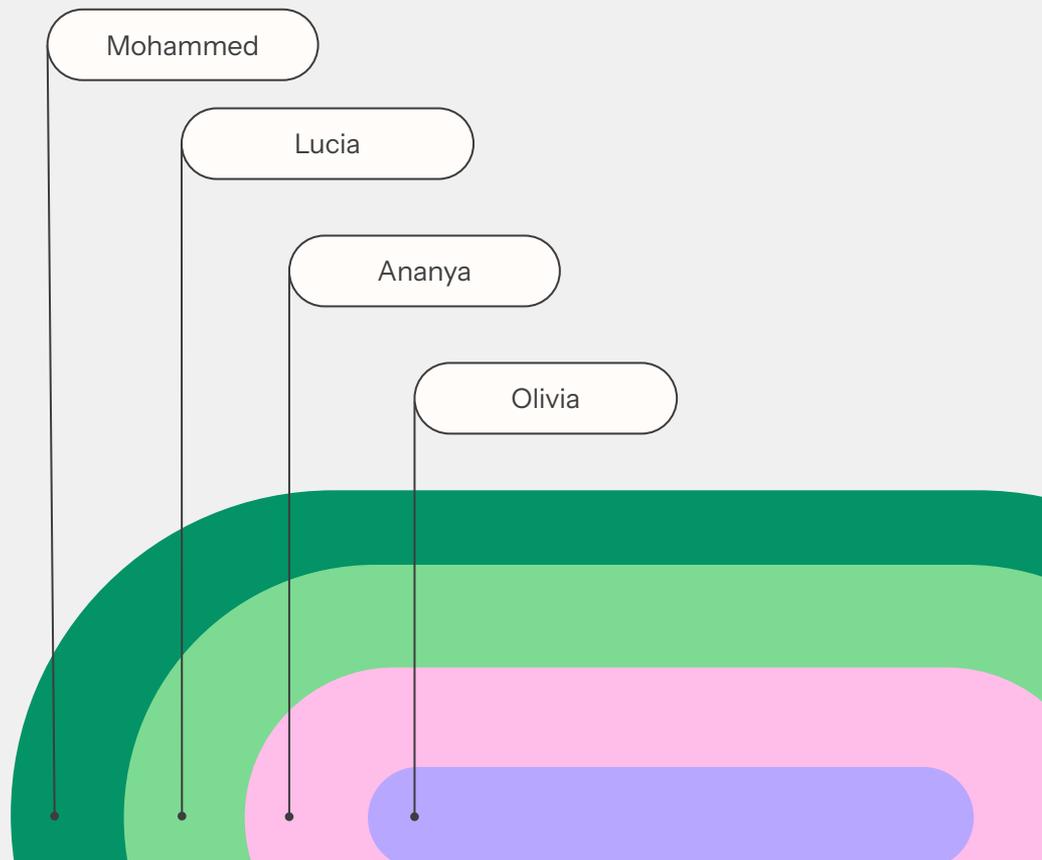
**“Mohammed”**  
30s

Co-owner of a family  
business  
Second-gen  
immigrant  
Bay Area

**“Olivia”**  
60s

Mother of one  
transgender  
daughter, one son in  
their 40s  
Stanford alum

# Our participants







# Lucia, 44

“I have tried to keep them younger – not to push them to grow up.”

Forced to mature at young age, but babying her kids – for example, 10 pm. curfew for her 18yo.

“Me as a parent, I got my foot down – and this is the way it’s going to be.”

More “authoritarian,” paternalistic style of parenting – “we know better” – that conflicts with child’s POV

“He has friends that are different – ‘Mom, why can’t I do this and this and this?’ Me and my son ‘bump heads’ because of it.”

Part of the reason for conflicts lies in the comparison between Western vs. traditional values.



# Ananya

She says that experiencing the modern world would help her parents understand her better — but her mom is a comedian.

Being “in touch” with youth culture is not the important thing – it’s really about the power dynamics of their relationship.

She turns to her friends more for support rather than her parents, even though they go on vacations/experiences together

She doesn’t feel the same level of developed trust with her parents as she does with her friends; experiences alone are not enough

# Mohammed, 30s

Extreme

Section 1	Say	Section 2	Feel
<p>Watching certain shows repeated with the flu... helping me break down how "that" was supposed to be able to process the situation by emphasizing them</p> <p>Mal Hoang</p>	<p>"when there's a million words, not even complete sentences, we're going up to your brain, and you choke on the words because you can't make them into sentences..."</p> <p>Mal Hoang</p>	<p>Not understood by his parents, didn't always feel seen or accepted by them</p> <p>Mal Hoang</p>	<p>Felt like he couldn't understand some of his parents' decisions when he was younger especially since they were different to those of his own friends</p> <p>Mal Hoang</p>
<p>Watched a lot of TV shows to learn how to process his emotions and see his emotions reflected in fictional narratives and characters</p> <p>Mal Hoang</p>	<p>Developed anxiety coping mechanisms as a young kid in order to deal with the lack of consistency/attention from his parents e.g. smoking weed at 13</p> <p>Mal Hoang</p>	<p>Not the parents often dismissed the emotional experience "he's not here it is"</p> <p>Mal Hoang</p>	<p>Unsettled depression, anxiety during his teenage years</p> <p>Mal Hoang</p>
<p>Expressed himself via different creative growing up</p> <p>Mal Hoang</p>	<p>Isolated himself a lot when he was growing up, stayed in his room as he wasn't let</p> <p>Mal Hoang</p>	<p>reflects on what he will do differently with his children, want to do regular check ins with my child, actively listen to their grievances, explain reasoning</p> <p>Mal Hoang</p>	<p>In Afghan cultures, family and community needs outweigh individual needs</p> <p>Mal Hoang</p>
<p>Expressed himself via different creative growing up</p> <p>Mal Hoang</p>	<p>Isolated himself a lot when he was growing up, stayed in his room as he wasn't let</p> <p>Mal Hoang</p>	<p>reflects on what he will do differently with his children, want to do regular check ins with my child, actively listen to their grievances, explain reasoning</p> <p>Mal Hoang</p>	<p>In Afghan cultures, family and community needs outweigh individual needs</p> <p>Mal Hoang</p>
Section 3	Do	Section 4	Think

“It doesn’t matter how much you suffer – for the sake of everyone else, you continue to endure.”

# Mohammed

“This is something I’ve constantly *vocalized* to my dad – ‘I am not you and you are not me.’”

At the end of the day, the collaborator model helps facilitate more conversation between parents/children.

“If I could, I would go back in time and I would just finish my career – but I’m very happy doing this.”

It seems like he regrets sticking with his current career in the family business – there is an element of “what if?”

“There was no core family structure – dad is at work, mom is with sister.”

The conflicts that they had were exacerbated by not having any 1:1 time, face-to-face time with his parents.

Immigrant families tend to prioritize their community needs over their individual needs – sometimes, they find it difficult to acknowledge their individual needs.

It would be game-changing to help people in these families articulate their individual needs to achieve a deeper intimacy.

Insight #1

The main point of difference for most immigrant parents/children was their model of their relationship: as caretaker, “authority,” or as friend, “collaborator.”

It would be game-changing to help people bridge the gap between these two models – to find a middle ground.

Insight #2

Not having a lot of 1:1 time – even if you have a lot of family time – prevents parents and children from connecting.

It would be game-changing to help people find ways to facilitate 1:1 interactions, rather than whole family interactions.

Insight #3

01

## Interview an expert

We scheduled an interview with Helen Hsu – K12 educator focused specifically on immigrant families

02

## Explore different types of immigrant families

1st gen, 2nd gen, people who just immigrated

03

## Find more extreme users

People cut off from their families, foster children, etc.



Thank you!