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**Abstract Only – Work in Progress**

**“Mothers and Daughters: Shaping the Future Together”**

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Parents play an important role in shaping the educational identity of their daughters. Female adolescents consider their parents a helpful source of feedback and improvement (Sadker & Sadker, 1994). More particularly, mothers have an impact on their daughters' learning attitudes and future destinations (Afshar, 1989; Rhodes & Nam, 1970). Despite the growth of the Muslim community in the US, there is little research regarding the educational experiences of Muslim students in the American school system in general and Muslim female students, in particular. This paper is part of a larger study that I conducted with group of 13 Muslim women attending college and explored different themes interacting with educational identity and future aspirations. This paper presents pictures of mothers and daughters negotiating meanings of education, success, and self fulfillment. This paper focuses on a subgroup of these young women, whose stories revealed different patterns of mother-daughter relationship in terms of education, identity and social development. To capture the deep and intense dynamics of this relationship, a combination of methodological approaches were followed: case study and oral history. Each interview was tape recorded and transcribed. The questions guiding this study developed from readings in the fields of sociology in general, and the sociology of education, in particular. Although this study draws upon the general field of sociology, it focuses on the sociology of education as an integral part of the framework. Given the paucity of research on Muslim students, this study suggested important implications for educational researchers as well as practitioners in the school system which will be discussed fully in this paper.