

Interview 1
Sarah Pastore
Nikkie Dilidili
October 26, 2020

Nikkie Dilidili was born in Saudi Arabia to Filipino parents. When she was five months old, they then moved back to the Philippines to be with the rest of her family. When she was twenty-one years old, she moved to Canada with her family. Nikkie is now twenty-five and is currently living in Niagara Falls, in a large Filipino community.

1. What age group/generation are you in?

Millenials

2. Do you identify with a cultural background and heritage? (Describe your cultural heritage, traditions, etc.)

Yes I am Filipina. If I could describe my heritage, I would say Filipinos are very family oriented. Family is very important in our culture. We tend to have very large families, and even if you are third or fourth generation cousins you are still very close to them. Filipinos are very loving and warm-hearted. We are also very loud and funny. Something interesting about my heritage is Filipinos are very ethnically mixed people since my country has been colonized many times. Even though we are Asian we also have Spanish and Italian heritage.

3. Were you born in Canada or abroad? Did you or your parents or grandparents in any generation emigrate to Canada?

Even though I am Filipina I was born in Saudi Arabia because my mother moved there for work. I lived in Saudi Arabia with my mom and my brother for 5 months and then we moved back to the Philippines to be with her family.

4. Did you grow up speaking a language or dialect other than English or French at home?

How often was the language spoken or was it only spoken at holidays with extended family or grandparents?

My first language is Tagalog, which is one of the official and most popular languages of the Philippines. I also learned Spanish growing up in school in the Philippines. Spanish is not an official language, but Tagalog is influenced in some ways from Spanish because we were a Spanish colony for many years and Spanish culture has integrated into ours. Many people in the Philippines can speak Spanish. I learned English when I moved to Canada. I never got the chance to learn French because I was not enrolled in Canadian schools for very long. Tagalog is the first language we use in our home. We rarely use English because we all immigrated from the Philippines. My grandparents have trouble learning English because they immigrated to Canada when they were in their sixties and seventies and it is hard to learn a language when you are that age.

5. Did you grow up in or live currently within an ethnic community of your own heritage or of a different heritage? (Or do you not see your community identifying with an ethnic community where everyone speaks English or French.)

Even though I was born in Saudi Arabia, I left when I was only five months old, so I did not really grow up around the culture and it did not influence me. I do not remember anything from Saudi Arabia. I moved to Canada with my family when I was twenty-one years old. My mom came to Canada two years before and started to work here in order to bring my family over.

When we moved to Canada, we moved to Niagara Falls. In Niagara Falls there is a large Filipino community and all of us are either from the Philippines or our parents were. Other than Filipinos, there are many Italians, Cubans and Colombians in Niagara Falls. I have many Italian and

Spanish friends. Besides living in Niagara Falls with many Italian and Spanish people, I am part Italian and Spanish. This is very common in the Philippines. My great grandmother on my dad's side is from Italy, and my great grandfather on my mom's side is from Spain. My uncle named my two cousins Venice and Barcelona to honour our Italian and Spanish heritage.

6. Did your community have various sports offered for youth participation in a variety of team sports for recreation or competitive?

In the Philippines the most popular sport is basketball. Every Saturday basketball games are held all over the country, even in small towns. There are teams for all ages, and it is usually played for fun.

7. Did you or someone you know want to play sports? Were you able to join a team in your community?

I did not play sports growing up because in the Philippines not many girls play sports and sports are usually just for boys and men. It is believed that sports are too dangerous for girls and my mother and grandmother did not want me to get hurt so only my brothers played sports in our family. Even in the Filipino community in Niagara Falls, I do not know many girls who are first generation Canadian that play sports. It is just not something that is common.

8. Were young girls encouraged to play sports? Were they able to join a women's team or join a co-ed team in your community?

Girls are not encouraged to play sports in the Philippines or even in Filipino communities here in Canada. It is very rare to see girls or women play sports and I do not know any girls who have. Gender roles are still very traditional in the Philippines and the woman's job is to stay home to take care of the family and to cook and clean. Something that is treated as a competitive sport for

girls in the Philippines is beauty pageants. Beauty is very big in my culture and many girls are forced to compete in beauty pageants from a very young age. Since girls start training for beauty pageants at a very young age, all of the girls become friends and I think this is the closest thing to forming a team like in sports.

9. Were you, young girls, or the person discussed in this interview encouraged or discouraged by family or the community to participate in team sports?

It is discouraged by the family for girls to play sports. Not only because they are worried about us girls getting hurt but also because it is believed to not be feminine. Femininity is very important to Filipina girls. Also, because Filipina women have so many jobs to do for the family and in our house, we do not have time to play sports. Men do not help with the family or help around the house.

10. How often did you play? Were you on a recreational or competitive team? Were there competitive available for girls in the community?

I was only allowed to play sports if it was in my school. My parents like other parents thought if it was a school sport it was safer. Also, school sports were believed to be safer because they are not as competitive as recreational sports. It is also very expensive to join sports teams and even if boys want to play sports, their families usually do not have the money. There are not many competitive sports in our communities, boys just usually play for fun with their friends on the street or in a field.

Interview 2

Sarah Pastore

Sharen Rasathurai

October 26, 2020

Sharen Rasathurai is a twenty-year-old Sri Lankan Canadian and is a student at Brock University. She is in the concurrent education program. Sharen is very athletic and grew up playing many sports. She is also running for Faculty Education rep at Brock University.

1. What age group/generation are you in?

I am twenty years old and I am a Millennial. I am first generation Canadian.

2. Do you identify with a cultural background and heritage? (Describe your cultural heritage, traditions, etc.)

I am Sri Lankan Canadian. I was born in Mississauga and my parents immigrated from Sri Lanka. My culture is Tamil, and this is also the language that I speak with my parents. Our religion is Catholic. My cultural heritage is very traditional. In our culture, reputation is very important. Especially the reputation of people's children. Things that are very important to our reputation in our culture is to have a good career and to have a good marriage. School is very important in our culture. We have many cultural traditions, one of the most popular is marriages. Wedding ceremonies are very big and extravagant, just like they are in all south Asian cultures. Other celebrations are important in my culture such as coming of age ceremonies and New Year's. We are also superstitious. Something we do on New Year's is we boil milk and let it rise. If it falls and is facing the sun or light, this will bring great luck and fortune into your life. This is

a very popular and well-known tradition in my culture. In my culture we tend to have very large families and our celebrations are huge. We love to be with our family and friends.

3. Were you born in Canada or abroad? Did you or your parents or grandparents in any generation emigrate to Canada?

I was born in Mississauga. My parents are from Sri Lanka. Before they immigrated to Canada they moved to Milan, Italy and lived there for two years. I still have family who live in Milan. Then my parents moved to Canada in 2006.

4. Did you grow up speaking a language or dialect other than English or French at home? How often was the language spoken or was it only spoken at holidays with extended family or grandparents?

Tamil is my first language along with English. I only really speak Tamil at home. It took my parents a long time to learn English so that's why we mainly speak Tamil. My parents also can speak Italian and I know how to say some words.

5. Did you grow up in or live currently within an ethnic community of your own heritage or of a different heritage? (Or do you not see your community identifying with an ethnic community where everyone speaks English or French.)

In Mississauga there are not many Tamil people here, but in Scarborough there is many Tamil people and other South Asian families. I grew up with friends of all ethnicities. I also do not have a lot of family here because they mainly live in Sri Lanka and Italy.

6. Did your community have various sports offered for youth participation in a variety of team sports for recreation or competitive?

In Mississauga there is many recreation centers that offered all types of sports. You could either take lessons to learn and to have fun or join competitive teams. Recreational sports in Mississauga are very expensive and many families cannot afford to sign their kids up to play any sports competitively. It is even expensive just for lessons. Instead, I played sports at school and I played every sport. I played basketball, volleyball, soccer, cross country and track and field. At Brock University I also was on the Women's Ultimate Frisbee team.

7. Did you or someone you know want to play sports? Were you able to join a team in your community?

I do know a lot of people who played rep. I always wanted to but it was too expensive and I never had a car at the time so I had no way of getting anywhere. The commute in Mississauga is very long and time consuming and it is not ideal. In Mississauga rep teams are usually categorized by ethnic groups.

8. Were young girls encouraged to play sports? Were they able to join a women's team or join a co-ed team in your community?

In my culture and community, girls were always encouraged to play sports. Girls were not treated any differently than boys. The only difference is boys' teams were a lot more competitive and I feel like people treat boys' teams more serious than girls' teams. Girls also do not have as many opportunities in sports than guys do. There were more sports available to guys than girls, which is why I preferred to play for my school teams because these sports were available to me. Last year Brock's women ultimate frisbee team placed second in our tier but we were not recognized or celebrated. Even though we got second place, the boys' team who did not finish as well received more recognition. I feel like the boys' team is recognized and appreciated more.

Another example was last year at a meet, the boys team got in trouble for something they did. Even though my team had nothing to do with it, we also got in trouble even though we are completely two different teams.

9. Were you, young girls, or the person discussed in this interview encouraged or discouraged by family or the community to participate in team sports?

All my family grew up playing sports. My parents always encouraged me to be active and play sports and they always were very supportive of me. Health and well-being are very important in my culture, so we are all encouraged to be active, even girls. Girls are treated no different than boys in this sense. I have witnessed seeing unjust treatment of girls in sports, but I have never seen mistreat of boys in sports.

10. How often did you play? Were you on a recreational or competitive team? Were there competitive available for girls in the community?

I played sports all throughout high school from grade 9 until grade 12. I did not play competitively until I was a student at Brock University.

Interview 3
Sarah Pastore
Alessia Pace
October 26, 2020

Alessia Pace is a twenty-year-old from St Catherines. She is in the concurrent education program at Brock University and wishes to be a kindergarten teacher. Alessia is Italian Canadian and she is a competitive dancer. She also grew up playing soccer along with many of her Italian Canadian friends.

1. What age group/generation are you in?

I am 20 years old and I am a millennial. I am second generation Italian Canadian.

2. Do you identify with a cultural background and heritage? (Describe your cultural heritage, traditions, etc.)

I am Italian on both sides of my family. I grew up in St. Catherines which has a large Italian community. I would say my family is very traditional. Family dinners and parties are very special to us. Almost all my friends are Italian as well.

3. Were you born in Canada or abroad? Did you or your parents or grandparents in any generation emigrate to Canada?

I am born in Canada and so are my parents. Both sets of my grandparents immigrated from Italy when they were young adults.

4. Did you grow up speaking a language or dialect other than English or French at home?

How often was the language spoken or was it only spoken at holidays with extended family or grandparents?

I only speak English and my parents do not speak Italian very well, but they can understand it. I did grow up hearing Italian all the time because of my grandparents. At holidays we always speak English because my grandparents all speak English very well.

5. Did you grow up in or live currently within an ethnic community of your own heritage or of a different heritage? (Or do you not see your community identifying with an ethnic community where everyone speaks English or French.)

Even though I grew up around almost all Italian kids and all my friends are Italian, there were not many Italian traditions in my community. I would say we all identify as Canadians.

6. Did your community have various sports offered for youth participation in a variety of team sports for recreation or competitive?

All sports were offered in St Catherines and they were not too expensive and accessible to everyone.

7. Did you or someone you know want to play sports? Were you able to join a team in your community?

I always played sports growing up. My sister and I played soccer like many girls and boys in St Catherines. We played for club Roma just down the street from my house. My dad is a big soccer fan, and he is also a soccer coach.

8. Were young girls encouraged to play sports? Were they able to join a women's team or join a co-ed team in your community?

Young girls were always encouraged to play sports. There were both co-ed and women's teams available in almost all sports.

9. Were you, young girls, or the person discussed in this interview encouraged or discouraged by family or the community to participate in team sports?

I was always encouraged to play sports especially since my father is a coach for women's soccer. Instead of sports I was a competitive dancer and I have danced all my life. Usually, five to six times a week.

10. How often did you play? Were you on a recreational or competitive team? Were there competitive available for girls in the community?

I only played soccer twice a week growing up because I was on a recreational team. It was more for fun and it was not very competitive.