



DYNAMICS OF REFUGEE PROBLEMS AND POSSIBLE SOLUTION

*By Anamika Singh and Khyati Kumari
From KIIT School of Law*

Abstract

A refugee is someone who has been forced to flee his or her country because of prosecution war or violence. They have fear of persecution based on reason of religion, nationality or membership in a particular social group. The refugee crisis is one of the most extreme matters concerning the international community. This paper focus on Dynamics of refugee problems and there three basic features of refugee crisis such as political tensions resulting in refugee/ migrant crisis, social tensions resulting in refugee/ migrant crisis and lastly economic tensions resulting in refugee/ migrant crisis. This paper further deals with climate change refugee and there connection between water and conflicts in syria. Further more this paper mention about possible refugee problems like statelessness, lack of documentation, problems related to personal laws, accessing equality learning, formal education and skill building opportunities are also are the current problems. In some locations, they also highlight police harassment as well as arrest and detention, because of poor access to sensitive health care, including psycho social support, young refugees highlight concerns

about gender inequality and discrimination as challenges for themselves, including for LGBT community. This includes child and forced marriage, sexual assault and rape. The Humanitarian crisis and there solution to this refugee crisis problem needs to be Humanitarian in nature to counter the problems. We have discussed about the four key objective of the refugee compacts. Legal support should be provided to the refugees to help them with the legal challenges as well as to help the migrants with proper documentation which will help then to find jobs and a way of livelihood. Lastly I conclude this paper by explaining the role of technology in helping to fight the challenge of large and unmanaged refugee crisis. Some areas where technology might be helpful for the refugees are health care, Online portal for jobs and documentation, unique identification number for all the displaced refugees.

Introduction: Dynamics of Refugee Problems

The refugee crisis is one of the most extreme matters of concern for the international community.¹ United Nations High Commissioner of Refugee (UNHCR) reported in 2018, that number of refugees were historically high (25.4 Millions) at the end of 2017 . Migrant/Refugee crisis maybe internal or external in nature². On the other hand In sovereign levels nations are divided

¹ UNHCR Report on The Refugee Crisis <https://www.unrefugees.org/emergencies/refugee-crisis-in-europe/>

² Internally displaced and Externally displaced refugees <https://www.unrefugees.org/emergencies/refugee-crisis->



over their approach towards refugee/migrant crisis³.

Dynamics of

Refugee Problems

Who is a Refugee?

A refugee is someone who has been forced to flee his or her country because of persecution war or violence . A refugee has a well formed fear of persecution for reasons of race , religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group. Most likely they cannot return home or are afraid to do so. War and ethnic ; tribal and religious violence are leading causes of refugees fleeing their countries⁴. Two thirds of all refugees worldwide come from just five countries. Syria, Afghanistan, South Sudan, Myanmar and Somalia⁵. These refugee/migrant crisis originates due to political, social and economical instability. Climate change may be a triggering catalyst for all political and socio-economic tensions. The total number of refugees when combined reaches to an unprecedented 68.5 million people around the world have been forced from home. There are also an estimated 10 millions stateless peoples .

Basic features of

Refugee Crisis

There are three basic features of refugee crisis:-

- A. Political tensions resulting in refugee/migrant Crisis.
- B. Social tensions resulting in refugee/migrant crisis .
- C. Economic tensions resulting in migrant/refugee crisis.

A. Political tensions resulting in migrant/refugee crisis: Political tensions whether internally or externally results in refugee problems. Persecution for holding different political opinions and political ideology has been common throughout the history. Also the fear of war which might be internal or foreign leads to creation of refugee problems⁶. Political tensions may also arise from clash between two superpowers, global balance of power or internal clashes.⁷ In recent times we can see USA and Russia⁸ fighting a war in Syria. Syria has been a battleground for both superpowers. Both superpowers are clashing for dominance over the strategically important Syria. In Syria the conflict started due to an uprising⁹ against the Bashar Al-Assad regime. Uprising became violent when security forces killed some of

³ Europe divided over migrant crisis <https://www.cnn.com/2018/06/25/europe-divided-over-almost-impossible-to-solve-migration-crisis.html>

⁴ Author's name – Laura Cappon Syrian refugees in Lebanon still reluctant to go home <https://openmigration.org/en/analyses/syrian-refugees-in-lebanon-still-reluctant-to-go-home/>

⁵ UNHCR Report on The Refugee Crisis <https://www.unrefugees.org/emergencies/refugee-crisis>

⁶ UNHCR official declaration [.https://www.unrefugees.org/refugee-facts/what-is-a-refugee/](https://www.unrefugees.org/refugee-facts/what-is-a-refugee/)

⁷Syrian civil war; Written by - The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica <https://www.britannica.com/event/Syrian-Civil-War>

⁸Syria conflict: what do the US, Russia, Turkey and Iran want? <https://www.dw.com/en/syria-conflict-what-do-the-us-russia-turkey-and-iran-want/a-41211604>

⁹Syria revolution: A revolt brews against Bashar al-Assad's regime Written By- Elizabeth Flock March 15, 2011

https://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/blogpost/post/syria-revolution-revolt-against-bashar-al-assads-regime/2011/03/15/ABrwNEX_blog.html?noredirect=on&utm_term=.ca99b8e98eeb



the protestors. This killing instigated the uprising into a revolt against the government which further escalated in civil war in Syria. Years later the Syrian uprising has now resulted in a full-fledged war in Syria for five years. The exodus in Syria has now resulted in an unprecedented number of refugees from the Syrian crisis. Over 5.6 million people have fled Syria since 2011, seeking safety in Lebanon, Turkey, Jordan and beyond. Millions more are displaced inside Syria and, as war continues, hope is fading fast¹⁰ Global balance of power also impacts upon the refugee crisis. In Yemen, two regional powers with their allies are fighting for dominance and hence trying to change the balance of power. Iran and Saudi Arabia both regional giants are fighting a war in Yemen. This war has resulted in a large chunk of migrants/refugees being displaced from the region. The refugee crisis in Bangladesh in early 1970s started after an internal uprising after being forcefully curbed by the Government of Pakistan gained momentum and escalated into war first internally in favor of the liberation of Bangladesh and later against India as India was supporting the Muktiwahini. This war fought because of the aggression of Pakistan followed by the defense of the Indian to retain the balance of power in the subcontinent. More than 10 millions of refugees took asylum in India. On March 25, 2010, the International Crimes Tribunal was established after the Awami League won a 2/3 majority. The party had pledged during the 2008 general elections, that if they come to power they will set up a war tribunal to try the war criminals. presently, the tribunals have delivered judgements in 32 cases against 83 war

criminals. among them 52 were sentenced to death. Presently, Bangladesh is struggling to cope up with the pressure of hosting 1 million Rohingya refugees.

B.Social tensions resulting in Refugee/migrant crisis: Social tensions inside a state can also result in creation of refugees in an area. The refugees may be displaced internally or externally. Genocide, Rape, Murder, Ethnic Cleansing, Religious Extremism, Group Egoism etc. are verities of social tensions. In the Indian subcontinent predominantly communal violence, racism, linguistic discrimination, social stratification, group egoism often leads to conflict between different strata of the society and are hence responsible for the creation of the refugee/migrant crisis. During the partition of India and Pakistan the social tensions between Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs led to the unmanaged refugee crisis throughout the subcontinent. More than 15 Million refugees were displaced due to religious and social disharmony. Similarly, in Rwanda the conflict between the Hutus and the Tutsis has resulted in many wars between the groups. In 1993 after the assassination of the Hutu president led to a series of violence against the Tutsis. In Barundi where the tutsis were in majority killed hutus. These social conflict lead to a huge influx of refugees in the african continent. The countries of Uganda, Barundi, South Africa etc. were mostly affected by the disolaces refugees. Internally displaced persons fleeing RPF incursions into the northern Rwanda from Uganda in 1990 and 1993. The state department estimated 3500,000 Rwandans(predominantly Hutus, but also tutsis) remained displaced. More

¹⁰Syria Emergency, UNHCR
<https://www.unhcr.org/syria-emergency.html>



than 250,000 Syrian refugees have been relocated in the Kurdish region of Iraq, these refugees are displaced due to social conflict between the Iraqi and the Kurdish groups. These conflicts are inspired due to ethnic tensions, cultural tensions, religious extremism and group egoism. During the early 1993, conflicts in Bosnia and Herzegovina started due to social tensions between the Muslim Bosniaks and the Catholic Croats. Over 2.2 million people were displaced and more than 100,000 people killed in the war. An estimated 12000-20000 women were raped, most of them Bosniak. The International Tribunal of Prosecution of persons Responsible for serious violations of Humanitarian Law committed in the territory of the former Yugoslavia since 1991, more commonly referred as the International Criminal tribunal for former Yugoslavia (ICTY), was a body of the United Nations established to prosecute serious crimes committed during the Yugoslav wars, and to try their perpetrators. The tribunal was an ad-hoc court located in The Hague, Netherlands. According to the report of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on South Sudan emergency Dated 15feb. 2019, "since the december, 2013, brutal conflict in South Sudan has claimed thousands of lives and driven nearly four million peoples from homes. While many are displaced inside the country, more than millions have fled to neighboring countries in a desperate bid to reach safety." In Sri Lanka, ethnic clashes between the majority Singhala community and the minority Tamilians. There are more than 100,000 Sri Lankan refugees continue to live in Tamil Nadu, thirty years after the outbreak of the Sri Lankan civil war. Social

tensions might originate from legal problems in the society. In Myanmar the government changed the citizenship law of the nation which forced many Rohingyas living in the Rakhine state of Myanmar bordering Bangladesh. These social problems left many civilians being displaced, stateless or without any means of livelihood. Social conflicts create a refugee/migrant crisis unmanageable in nature which are mainly found particularly in Africa and Middle East. Yemen presently is one of these social crisis that has resulted in large numbers of unmanaged refugee crisis which has affected countries like Clashes between Houthi rebel fighters and forces loyal to the internationally recognised president Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi, who last month fled to Saudi Arabia, have triggered the exodus. So far, more than 600 people have been killed in the conflict.¹¹ At least 10,000 Yemenis had been killed by fighting, more than 40,000 casualties overall. Near about 3 million people has been displaced in the Yemeni crisis.

Economic Tensions resulting in Refugee/Migrant crisis: - Economic tensions often causes the creation of economic refugees. An economic refugee is a person whose economic prospects have been devastated and seeks to escape the oppressive poverty across the globe. As in tend to belong from the low-income countries, people from third world countries, mainly due to the economic injustice around the globe.

Climate

Change Refugees:

Climate change feeds armed conflict in Somalia in three ways: by exacerbating

¹¹ Yemen conflict leaves nearby countries increasingly stretched as thousands flee

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2015/apr/10/yemen-crisis-refugees-humanitarian-resources-stretched-thousands-flee>



tensions between clans; boosting the ranks and role of terrorist groups, including al-Shabaab; and increasing migration. climate change has received relatively little attention when compared to anti-terrorism and security sector reform. Global and regional powers and international organizations have focused on fighting terrorism and piracy in the Horn of Africa. Neither the Paris Agreement nor last November's United Nations Climate Change Conference in Bonn, Germany, have addressed the links between climate change and armed conflicts. They also haven't offered recommendations on how to build resilience in this area in fragile states. This is particularly worrisome because even a slight change in the global temperature is enough to provoke a set of weather calamities, conflict-affected countries, which are socially, politically and economically vulnerable, encounter considerable obstacles in addressing the effects of climate change. Instability, low state capacity and prioritizing more immediate goals tend to sideline climate change issues. This is despite the fact that climate change exacerbates existing problems and intensifies violence, as in Somalia's case.

Additional connections between water and conflicts in Syria :

In addition to the role that hydro logic conditions and water availability and use play in contributing to economic and political disruptions, there are examples throughout history of the intentional and incidental targeting of water systems during conflicts that start for other reasons, or the use of water and water systems as weapons and tools of conflict (Gleick 1993). As unrest in Syria developed, violence worsened and impacts on urban water distribution systems were

reported together with specific, intentional attacks on water systems because of their strategic value. During fighting around the city of Aleppo in 2012, the major pipeline delivering water to the city was badly damaged and in September the city of about three million people was suffering shortages of drinking water (BBC 2013a). In late November 2012, anti-Assad Syrian rebels overran government forces and captured the Tishri n hydroelectric dam on the Euphrates River after heavy clashes (Mroue 2012). The dam supplies several areas of Syria with electricity and is considered of major strategic importance to the Syrian regime. In February 2013, anti-Assad forces captured the Tabqa/al-Thawrah dam, which is the largest hydroelectric dam in the country and provides much of the electricity to the city of Aleppo (BBC 2013b). These kinds of secondary impacts of conflict—the targeting of water systems — highlight the strategic value of water supply, hydroelectricity, and flood control in water-short regions.

Possible Refugee Problems:

Here are some of the probable refugee problems mentioned below: -

Statelessness- Refugees around the world have to face the consequences of war or they have to flee the place either out of the fear of war or persecution he/she is facing, of if he/she is facing persecution based on religion, race, creed, political opinion etc. They often have to abandon their property, state, nation to take refuge. Statelessness often forces a refugee to be on the mercy of the nation receiving them.

Lack of Documentation: - With no proper International Statute on refugees. The refugees have to face the challenges of the



documentation which is not universal and changed from one state to another.

Problems Related to Personal Law: - Refugees also have to deal with the problems of applicability of personal laws Syrians are much more likely to experience problems related to proof of marriage; basically, marriages conducted in Syria. This has consequences for newborn children, who cannot be properly registered without proof their parents are married¹²

Difficulty in accessing quality learning, education, and skills-building opportunities: -Young refugees consistently identify the difficulty of obtaining recognition for their existing qualifications as a serious challenge. Accessing quality learning, formal education, and skill-building opportunities are also recurrent problems.

Few employment and livelihood opportunities: - Refugees emphasize they would rather work than depend on humanitarian aid and express frustration at the limited employment and livelihood opportunities available to them. Refugees express concern about safety, security, and freedom of movement linked to xenophobia and their difficulty obtaining documents. In some locations, they also highlight police harassment as well as arrest and detention.

Poor access to sensitive Health care, including psycho social support gender inequality, discrimination, exploitation, and violence, including for LGBT: - Refugee youths highlight a lack of access to quality health care as a major concern, and particularly note the need for youth-sensitive sexual and reproductive health care and

psycho social support. Young refugees highlight concerns about gender inequality and discrimination as challenges in and of themselves, but also as underlying causes of sexual exploitation and gender-based violence (SGBV). This includes domestic violence, child and forced marriage, sexual assault, and rape.

Possible Solutions To Refugee Problems:

Refugee crisis is a humanitarian crisis and the solution to this problem needs to be humanitarian in nature to counter the problems. So first of all, we all have to understand the dynamics of the refugee problem and also the challenges refugees face in day to day life. People donate to help the refugees and also help the organization that are tirelessly working to help out the refugees. United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees The global compact on refugees (GCR) is a new international agreement to forge a stronger, fairer response to large refugee movements and protracted situations. It grew out of the historic New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants of September 2016 and its comprehensive refugee response framework, followed by two years of intensive consultations with UN Member States, international organizations, experts, civil society, and refugees.¹³ The four key objectives of the refugee compact are to: (1) Ease pressures on countries that host refugees;(2) Build self-reliance of refugees;(3) Expand access to third countries for refugees through resettlement and other

¹² The Legal Problems Of Refugees ; Written By- Paul Prettitore
<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/future-development/2016/02/04/the-legal-problems-of-refugees/>

¹³Global Compact On Refugees
<https://www.unhcr.org/5c10c1604.pdf>



pathways of admission; (4) Support conditions that enable refugees voluntarily to return to their home countries.

World leaders also needs to take responsibility for saving life first. Nations also needs to be clear about their roles Thousands of people fleeing persecution in Myanmar suffered for weeks on board boats while Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia bickered over who should help them in May 2015. States can stop this by investing in search and rescue operations and immediately helping people in distress. Resettlement is a vital solution for the most vulnerable refugees – including torture survivors and people with serious medical problems. All countries should investigate and prosecute trafficking gangs who exploit refugees and migrants, and put people's safety above all else. Survivors whom Amnesty met in Southeast Asia said traffickers killed people on board boats when their families couldn't pay ransoms. Others were thrown overboard and left to drown, or died from because there was no food and water. Governments also need to stop blaming refugees and migrants for economic and social problems, and instead combat all kinds of xenophobia and racial discrimination. Doing otherwise is deeply unfair, stirs up tensions and fear of foreigners, and sometimes leads to violence and even death. UN has received less than half the funding it needs to support Syria's 4 million refugees. This is now forcing 80% of refugees living outside camps in Jordan to do dangerous, degrading jobs or send their children out to beg¹⁴.

Legal support should be provided to the refugees to help them with the legal

challenges as well as to help the migrants with proper documentation which will help them to find jobs and a way of livelihood. Nations also needs to be clear on the stand of managing the refugee crisis. In recent times many countries have voted the political opinions that are pro anti-immigration. Europe was divided over the matter of refugees but countries like Canada, Turkey, Pakistan, Norway, Lebanon, Germany, Austria, Bangladesh, have done exceptionally well in receiving a large number of refugees and helping them to rehabilitate and provide basic amenities.

Role Of Technology In Fighting Refugee Crisis:

Media also needs to understand its role in helping to fight the challenge of large unmanaged refugee crisis. Media provides a platform for the refugee problems. The Incident in 2015 where 2 boats of refugees were sent back by the Thai authority was watched throughout the world on media as well as social media. The brutal killings of Rohingya in Myanmar also seen throughout the globe. The rapid change in technology has impacted on the way we see the refugee problems.

Some areas where technology might be helpful for the refugees are:

1. A unique identification number for all the displaced refugees- The unique identification number may be given to the refugee by the United Nation High Commissioner of Refugees or by any other International Organization.

¹⁴ Problems and solutions to the international migrant crisis <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/brookings->

[now/2017/12/18/problems-and-solutions-to-the-international-migrant-crisis/](https://www.brookings.edu/blog/brookings-now/2017/12/18/problems-and-solutions-to-the-international-migrant-crisis/)



2. Health care – With the help of technology, the doctors in the refugee camps may take a second opinion from a doctor far away from the camp.
3. Online portal for documentation- Refugees may use the portal to register all the required document required for immigration.
4. Online portal for jobs for refugees: Occupation and means of livelihood are very basic necessities of the refugees.

