



IMPACT OF ROHINGYA ISSUE IN BANGLADESH

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ABSTRACT

Rohingya people are stateless and they are ethnic group who mainly follow Islam. They mainly residence in Rakhine state. Myanmar nationality law denied their citizenship on 1982. Many Rohingya people fled to Bangladesh. After then, two countries tried to solve this problem but they could not find out yet. The critical argument of the study is that the future of the Rohingya people and effect on the relationship of Bangladesh and Myanmar. The dilemma first began when almost one million refugees came to Bangladesh from Myanmar to take shelter. The Rohingya people were forced to leave Myanmar and settle in Bangladesh. The Bangladesh government has tried to address the multi-dimensional "Rohingya Crisis", which is also being considered seriously by numerous international agencies and NGOs in Bangladesh. There has been worldwide concern regarding the atrocious act of the Myanmar government towards the Rohingya refugees sheltered in Bangladesh. In this dire situation, there is a need for greater awareness about this multi-dimensional crisis Bangladesh faces many challenges and problems, along with social, environmental, legal and financial impacts. This paper aims to identify the impacts and challenges for Bangladesh due to the mass influx of Rohingya refugees.

KEYWORDS: *Geopolitics, Migrations, Bangladesh-Myanmar relations, Rohingya, Challenges.*

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

In the global politics, migration is not the new phenomenon in the world History. Israel-Palestine, Turkey-Syria, Armenia-Azerbaijan, India-Pakistan, India-Nepal, USA-Mexico these are several global experience. These kinds of illegal human mobility or migration is highly disputed issue now. Mainly identity politics and migration follow a linear historical path. The Rohingya people having long faced violence and discrimination in Myanmar. Armed conflict mainly escalated in August 2017 in Rakhine state causing the Rohingya people flee to nearby Bangladesh.

Rohingya communities estimate that about three-quarters of the Rohingya people are today living outside of Myanmar. UNHCR and government of Bangladesh have individually registered over 860,000 Rohingya refugees in the refugee settlements on Cox's Bazar. Bangladesh ensured their protection and extended life-saving humanitarian support.

Mainly those people are stateless, without legal rights and protection, Rohingya children and families are vulnerable to human trafficking, Child labor, child marriage, and even gender based violence and other forms of exploitation and abuse. For instance, in comparison to non-Rohingya dominant regions in Rakhine state, Rohingya-dominant regions mainly suffer from many problems and acute malnutrition and higher mortality rates.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The objectives of this study formulate the following research questions to fulfill this research

- 1) What is historical backgrounds of the Rohingya refugees?
- 2) What is the present Rohingya crisis in Bangladesh due to mass influx?
- 3) What are the role of government, donor agencies and diplomats in resolving the crisis?
- 4) What is the legal status of the Rohingya people?
- 5) Who give the financial support to Bangladesh?
- 6) What are the economic, social, environmental, and health impacts of the Rohingya crisis?

METHODOLOGY AND SOURCE OF INFORMATION

This Information has been collected from both primary and secondary sources. The Primary information has been collected through interviews of relevant sources and the observations at the Rohingya camps at Ukhia and Teknaf Upazila, Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. The author conducted field investigations. During the field visit, the author conducted Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with Rohingya refugees including male and female who are of 18-70 years. 11 male and 6 female



joined in this conversations. the author facilitated the FGD sessions with two local students. The FGDs were conducted in the native language of the Rohingya and they were mainly translated by those students. Author Interviews of Rohingya refugees, talked with government officials, development workers, and businessmen have been conducted. Discussions with local people and first-hand observation at camp respondents of the study which selected to understand their perspectives. Qualitative data collected through this interview after the comparison with relevant published documents to find out relevant information. & a large number of data on the Rohingya issues have been collected from different kinds of published sources and these types of secondary data were also included in there.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF MIGRATION

The Rohingya people are a mostly Muslim ethnic minority group in Myanmar. They represent about 1 million among Myanmar's total population of 52 million and live in the northern part of Rakhine state. Armed conflict escalated in

August 2017 in Rakhine state causing Rohingya to flee to nearby Bangladesh.

This issue drew attention to all. According to the Arakan Rohingya national Organization, Rohingya have been living in Arakan from the time immemorial. The Rohingya is an indigenous Muslim minority group in Myanmar which mainly inhabits the Rakhine state. The Rohingyas are believed to have migrated from India and Bangladesh during the British Rule from 1824-1948. Back then, Myanmar was considered as a province of India. Thus, the Rohingya migration was considered as International migration.

In 1982, a new citizenship law which established three levels of citizenship was enacted. Due to the lack of documents, the Rohingyas failed in establishing proof while applying for citizenship.

Tun khin human rights activists and president of Burmese Rohingya organization UK said "Rohingyas have been facing genocide for many years. They are different ethnic group; they have a different appearance and religion"

HISTORICAL ISSUES OF ROHINGYA REFUGEE: [PLS MOVE THIS PART TO THE LITERATURE REVIEW SECTION

Destroyed Village In Rakhine State, September 2017	
Date	9 October 2016- January 2017
Type	Ethnic and Religious persecution Genocide

1982 → Denied citizenship
(Making them stateless population)

2017 → Massive wave of violence

[More than 900,000 Rohingyas are now living in camps of Cox's Bazar]

Over the years Rohingya people faced violence and discrimination in Myanmar. Since after independence, the Rohingya Muslims suffer numerous human rights abuses such as mass killing, rape and torture, and this has continued till today. These have created a chronic refugee crisis in neighboring country Bangladesh. The past decades saw that the Rohingya,

ethnic group, suffers from massive violence in Rakhine resulting in ethnic cleansing and genocide. Armed clashes between Rakhine Buddhists and Rohingya Muslims lead to the successive displacement.

The military occupation of this bordering state caused displacement.

GEOPOLITICAL DISCRIMINATION OF BANGLADESH-MYANMAR RELATIONSHIP

The following table shows the geopolitical differences in the relationship between the two regions, namely- Bangladesh & Myanmar

	Bangladesh	Myanmar
Location	Southern Asia, Between India and Myanmar	Southeastern Asia Between Bangladesh and Thailand.
Religions	Muslim → 89.1% Hindu → 10% Others → 0.9% (includes Buddhists and Christians)	Buddhist → 87.9% Christian → 6.2% Muslim → 4.3%

Table 1: Geopolitical discrimination of Bangladesh – Myanmar relationship



MAP OF RAKHINE



STRATEGIC INTERESTS BEHIND THE MIGRATION ISSUES

There are longstanding tensions between the ethnic groups of Rohingyas, living in the Rakhine state of western Myanmar. Bangladesh and Myanmar share a land border of approximately 271 Km and a maritime border. These two have shared trade linkages, people to people contact and engagements. In 1982, then military government had passed the Citizenship Act that recognized as citizens only those ethnic groups which had lived in Myanmar (then known as Burma) period to 1824 when mainly Anglo-Burmese war begin. In this

way, The Rohingyas became officially denied their citizenship document, education, employment, freedom of movement and even the right to marry freely and discriminatory taxation system. Rakhine is least develop region and there lack of employment opportunities. About 1.2 million Rohingya Muslims from Rakhine state were not enumerated. Those maximum identify as “Rohingya” and instead had to register as Bengali. The following table shows the location and status of Muslim population in Myanmar:

Table 2: Proportion of Muslim population and party Performance

Date:	Communal violence: 1942-Present Insurgency: 1947- present
Location:	Northern Rakhine state Bangladesh-Myanmar border
Status:	Persecution of Muslims in Myanmar (Notable violence in 1978, 1991, 2015, 2016, 2017)

**IMPACT OF THE ROHINGYA ON BANGLADESH-MYANMAR BILATERAL RELATIONS**

If we analyze the impacts of Rohingya on the bilateral relationship between the two countries, there are many issues to consider-like, economic, environmental, social and so on:

FINDINGS**1) Economic Impact**

Bangladesh's economy spends on estimated \$1.21 billion a year supporting the Rohingya. The influx of refugees has adversely affected not only Cox's bazar area but the national economy.

2) Environmental destruction

The major environmental impact include ground water depletion due to excessive water extraction for the camp

ground water depletion due to excessive water extraction and changes water hydrology caused by camps activities & deforestation.

3) Social Impact (Criminal activities)

Unemployed Rohingya have been found to be involved in criminal activities like yaba drug smuggling, they involved with many unethical works which is very harmful for any kind of nation.

4) Universal Trade

Bangladesh produces medicines, electronics. Myanmar can import these from Bangladesh highly. On the other hands, Myanmar is the source if agricultural products. So, during the Rohingya crises both countries are economically lose their foreign market.

Institute	Estimation	Time Span
PRI	\$800 million-\$1 billion	1 year
SANEM	\$1 billion-\$1.2 billion	1 year
CPD	\$882 million	10 month

[Source: Dhaka Tribute and CPD Research]

	Core Assumption	Cost of Bangladesh	Timeline
Scenario 1	Bangladesh pays 50% of the total fund requirements 2. Water and sanitation structures are useable	\$167.8 Million	March2018 August 2018
Scenario 2	Half of the shelters along With water, sanitation and Hygiene structures need to be rebuilt.	\$240 million	September2018-February 2018

[Source: Implications of the Rohingya crisis for Bangladesh by CPD]

Table-3: Cost Estimated for Hosting Rohingya

5) Geopolitical Values of Bangladesh

Bangladesh mainly shares land borders with Myanmar and India. Towards the sea, Bangladesh maintains three Chattogram, Mongla and Payra. Bangladesh is Prime candidate to partner with China for "maritime silk road". The diplomatic ties became strong between Bangladesh and India started when Awami League came to power 2009; bilateral relations have packed between these two countries. Bangladesh & Myanmar both are dependent and this mutual dependency depends on economic social and regional platform.

6) Regional platform

Bangladesh & Myanmar both share a common regional platform like "BIMSTEC". This is an outstanding geo-strategic characteristic of Bangladesh. Without the involvement of Bangladesh, any connectivity amongst the states of ASEAN and SAARC is absolutely impossible.

7) Economic Dependency

Export and import businesses are linked up with three countries. Bangladesh buys many million hectors rice production every year. Myanmar has a huge potential of rice cultivation. Myanmar is a country rich in natural resources. There are huge amount of natural resources like tin, zinc, copper, coal, marble, etc. Myanmar can also be a big helper of Bangladesh on the field of food security. Bangladesh has never been to take full advantage of this opportunity; this country of 135 tribes and different ethnic groups has been under military rule for many Years.

8) Human Trafficking

There have been many alarming reports that Rohingya trafficking involves various crime like smuggle the Rohingyas who do not want to stay there in the camps. They charge trafficking fees ranging is so high. Many local and



national newspapers have also published reports on the trafficking of women to international markets. Many of them are involved themselves to smuggling & take it as their new profession.

9) **Forced prostitution**

Many female Rohingya refugees have engaged themselves in prostitution and have taken it as their new business due to poverty (Guiu et al., 2015). They mainly involved prostitution only for poverty & better life of their children. There is a possible risk of Aids and others sexual diseases.

10) **Population and childbirth**

Several NGO workers have noted that the Rohingyas have little awareness of family planning, and the population of Rohingya is likely to increase in the camps. In the near future, it will put additional pressure on food, jobs, health, and other basic needs. Moreover, it is a matter of great concern that childbirths are not registered in the Rohingya camps. They are living there for now, but no one knows how long they will have to stay there without any citizenship.

11) **Health concerns**

It was found that sanitation is one of the major problems for the Rohingya refugees who are living in different camps. Only a single latrine is used to 20 families while a tube-well is placed for 40-50 families. Some people disagreed with using new latrines because they think that the new ones are like the old ones. Therefore, spread diseases among them. There is another problem with tube-well placement, because some tube-wells were installed at a lower height (30–40 feet). As a result, after some time, these tube-wells may become useless because they cannot reach the groundwater. Therefore, the Rohingyas will have to face the scarcity of safe drinking water in the near future. Many of the Rohingya people r sick & they have no doctor. One doctor sometimes come in a week. The camp children roam barefooted & no one concerned about them.

CONCLUSION

Bangladesh and Myanmar are both on the way to be developed countries. Bangladesh is going to be a South Asian Economic Miracle. Bangladesh can play a significant role on Myanmar to same extent whole South-East Asia. There are many opportunities to enhance Bangladesh's bilateral trade and investment relation with Myanmar. The two countries can jointly explore for oil and gas on the Bay of Bangle. Bangladesh can also contribute to the development of Myanmar's infrastructure. Both countries should develop their policy how to solve this problem and how to develop their economy and social relationships.

Discloser Statement

No potential conflict of interest was reported by both the author.

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