



“IMPACT OF GLOBALISATION ON MIGRATION WITH THE SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE AFGHAN REFUGEES IN PAKISTAN”

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ABSTRACT

Today in the Globalised world, with the exchange of goods and commodities there is an exchange of humans too. And that exchange takes place in the form of migration. Today in the 21st century this migration has been rapidly increasing for various factors like better prospects, more job opportunities etc. One form of migrants is refugees also. These persons are forced to leave their countries due to the fear of persecution, war or violence. They cannot go back to their countries out of fear and receiving country doesn't want to take them for lifetime because as per them they are the burden on their economy. And due to it they don't give them the legal status and because of not having any legal status in the receiving state they suffer from various problems ranging from no access to basic health care facilities, torture at the hands of police and other top authorities. Afghanistan has always been a disturbing country to live. Due to its war like conditions, large number of Afghans left their countries and settled in some other countries like Pakistan, Iran, and other European countries. Pakistan holds the second largest country for receiving the refugees after Turkey and it has large number of afghan refugees settled there.

INTRODUCTION

“Globalization is truly the megatrend of our times” and its impact is being increasingly – although unequally – felt in almost every region of the world. Anthony Gidens defined globalization as the intensification of worldwide social relations which link distant localities in such a way that local happenings are shaped by events occurring many miles away and vice versa.

One of the aspects of globalisation is migration which has taken a new shape in the 21st century. In this era of globalisation where everything seems to be globalised the nature of migration is also changing .With poverty, political repression, human rights abuses, and conflict pushing into



more and more people out of their home countries while economic opportunities, political freedom, physical safety, and security pull both highly skilled and unskilled workers into new lands, it is believed that the pace of international migration is unlikely to slow in future.

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

International migration refers to change of residence over national boundaries. An international migrant is someone who moves to a different country. International migrants are further classified as legal immigrants, illegal immigrants, and refugees. Legal immigrants are those who moved with the legal permission of the receiver nation, illegal immigrants are those who moved without legal permission, and refugees are those crossed an international boundary to escape persecution.

STATUS OF REFUGEES IN GLOBALIZED WORLD

Globalization has two sides. People, goods and capital now circulate around the globe with greater ease than ever before. On the other hand, for the more vulnerable strata of society, including refugees and asylum seekers, the consequences of globalization are often less positive.⁹ Today more people have been forced to flee their homes than at any time in recorded history. This displacement is a complex, often vexing topic, and one that can be exploited for political purposes.¹⁰ Widespread images of people trying to cross newly built walls and fences at international borders, or being rescued from sinking ships as they attempt to cross sea borders, have brought into stark relief the impacts of the increasing securitization of migration across the world.

Securitization of migration and closing of borders has led to increasing violence and insecurities for refugees themselves, without having any real impact on decreasing migration flows. Refugees are being forced into taking increasingly expensive and dangerous routes to reach their countries of destination, and many are dying on the route. And these experiences of violence and insecurity vary according to the social, economic and political structures of inequality in countries of origin, transit and destination.



There are categories of refugees who are forcibly displaced from their country of origin and have no choice to move to another country for various factors. Refugees are those persons who fled their countries out of the fear of persecution due to religion, nationality, race, religion, particular social group and also having different political opinion. In Latin American countries people are fleeing due to the gross and harsh violations of human rights. It is being said that a person remains a refugee for at least 20 years during his lifetime on an average.

While refugees are already victims of human rights violations, the current international scenario is re-victimizing them while they seek protection. However, such ongoing violations do not stop migration. They only make it harder and more hazardous. They endanger the lives of refugees, and jeopardise the right to migrate.

CASE STUDY OF AFGHANISTAN REFUGEES

Afghanistan is the country located in the continent of Asia. It shares its borders with Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Pakistan, China, and Iran. Civil war has brought a variety of social ills in Afghanistan, such as poverty, interethnic strife, inequality of women, and widespread thievery, kidnapping, and banditry. Blood feuds handed down through generations are legendary, and revenge is regarded as a necessary redress of wrongs. The civil war has strengthened these tendencies. The ongoing civil war had continued to kill, wound, and displace hundreds of thousands of civilians. Kabul has been largely without electricity since 1994. Water, phones, and sewage systems have been destroyed. Years of war have separated and impoverished extended families that traditionally cared for widows and fatherless children. Now many are left to fend for themselves. Some provinces began experiencing famine in the 1990s and diseases of malnutrition are being reported for the first time in decades.

After the civil war and Taliban rule in Afghanistan, the people of the country faced many problems. They were forced to leave their countries and settle in neighbouring countries. The afghan refugees account for the second largest refugees after the Syrian refugees in the world. The vast majority has settled in neighbouring countries like Iran and Pakistan around 2 million in each country but Europe has seen a drastically increased rate in these refugees coming and



settling in Netherlands, Germany and the UK. Asylum applications increased particularly significantly after the US air strikes in August 1998, and following the imposition of UN sanctions in 1999 and December 2000.

AFGHAN REFUGEES IN PAKISTAN

One of the world's largest refugee-hosting nations, Pakistan is home to an estimated 2.4 million registered and undocumented people from Afghanistan. There were an estimated 1,405,715 registered Afghan refugees in Pakistan as of June 2019, as per the statistics by UN refugee agency.¹⁵ Pakistan has been continuously extending their stay since 2007; however, the government has this time round decided to strictly implement immigration laws along the border with Afghanistan. It requires registered refugees to provide their Proof of Registration (POR) cards before going to their country, and obtain visas to enter Pakistan again. A few post-terrorist attack investigations have found the involvement of Afghan refugees in housing or helping the terrorists; and refugees' camps also have been used by the criminals as well as the terrorists. It was in this backdrop that the state decided to take measures vis-à-vis management of the borders, verification of the identity documents of refugees, their mobile phone SIM cards as well as implementation of visa regime.

Afghans living in Pakistan are report incidents of harassment such as raids on their homes and police coercion. ¹⁷Afghan refugees in Pakistan are supported by UNHCR, WHO, UNICEF, and other agencies. Most of the refugees live in the rural areas and on the outskirts of the urban areas in Pakistan due to the cheaper cost of living. The basic issue which rises here is of their health and hygiene. They don't have an access to the health care facilities making them prone to various infections and serious diseases. And movement of people from one place to another serves as a transfer of diseases and infections from one area to the new areas.

LEGAL STATUS OF AFGHAN REFUGEES IN PAKISTAN

Pakistan is not a signatory to the United Nations 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol. Pakistan also has no official Refugee Law. Section 4 of Pakistan's 1951 Citizenship Act outlines that anyone born in Pakistan after 1951 is eligible for



Pakistani citizenship, unless their parents come from an enemy state (a status reserved only for India and Israel). However, this stipulation has rarely been implemented and never for Afghans. In 2018, the newly elected Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan, of the Pakistan-Tehreek-e-Insaaf Party, promised all Afghans born in Pakistan would be given citizenship. However, the backlash against this move was so huge he had to backtrack on this offer. The only route to citizenship for Afghans is through marriage with a male Pakistani citizen; in practice, only Afghan women can acquire Pakistani citizenship through marriage (Section 10, 1951 Citizenship Act).

Afghans have been given institutional support in Pakistan, much of which began during the Soviet-Afghan War. In 1979, the government of Pakistan established a government department, the Chief Commissionerate for Afghan Refugees (CCAR), which is subject to the Ministry of States and Frontier Regions (SAFRON) and is charged with the management of all Afghan refugees in Pakistan. This includes refugees living in and outside of refugee camps. Key activities include providing land for refugee camps, coordinating relief activities with international organisations, education, and healthcare in refugee camps, and providing advice to Afghans living outside of refugee camps on a number of issues, including access to education and employment.

REPATRIATION OF AFGHAN REFUGEES IN PAKISTAN

For most of the past 40 years, Pakistan has hosted well over a million Afghans, among the largest refugee populations in the world. But over the years, Pakistan has turned on the Afghan community. In response to several deadly security incidents and deteriorating political relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan, Pakistani authorities have mounted a concerted campaign to drive Afghans out of the country. In the second half of 2016, a toxic combination of deportation threats and police abuses pushed out nearly 365,000 of the country's 1.5 million registered Afghan refugees, as well as just over 200,000 of the country's estimated 1 million undocumented Afghans. The exodus amounts to the world's largest unlawful mass forced return of refugees in



recent times. Pakistani authorities have made clear in public statements they want to see similar numbers return to Afghanistan in 2017.

This condition took place due to various factors like strained relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan, increased insecure legal status, etc. Afghans described to Human Rights Watch various coercive factors that began in June 2016 after relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan deteriorated, including: increasingly insecure legal status; government announcements that all Afghans should leave, and the resulting ever-present threat of deportation; daily police extortion that intimidated and stripped them of their limited income and ability to make ends meet in Pakistan; arbitrary detention; police raids on their homes; exclusion of their children from Pakistani schools and shutting down Afghan refugee schools; and, to a lesser extent, police theft and unlawful use of force. Pakistani police abuses decreased in October 2016, although reports of ongoing abuses continued well into December.

But the people who returned to Afghanistan faced another crisis which completely shattered them in 2018. In 2018, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan documented the highest ever recorded civilian deaths, including the highest ever recorded number of children killed in the conflict. There were nearly 11,000 casualties which included 3,804 deaths and 7,189 injuries. Last year also saw more than 360,000 internally displaced by the conflict, according the United Nations Office of Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. In a report published in June 2019, the Institute for Peace and Economics said that Afghanistan is the world's "least peaceful" country, replacing Syria.

In 2019, Pakistan's federal government decided to extend the stay of registered Afghan refugees in Pakistan till June 2020. This year marks 40 years of Afghan displacement and Pakistan's exceptional humanitarian assistance. In June 2019, Pakistan, Afghanistan and UNHCR agreed to ensure "safe and honourable" repatriation of Afghan refugees living in Pakistan for the past four decades under the Tripartite Agreement.



CONCLUSION

By looking at the plight of afghans in their country led them to flee from there and start their living at some another country but the treatment given to these refugees is really inhuman. They face lots of problems ranging from their health to their equal treatment by the receiving states. They are separated from the population of that country and for their whole lives they are treated as refugees. They don't find themselves mingled with the society. They are treated poorly at the hands of Pakistanis authorities. They face another issue of legal status by Pakistan. The deportation of afghan refugees in 2016 has been called as the “world's largest unlawful mass forced return of refugees in recent times” by Human Rights Watch.

The receiving states as well as the international organisations need to do something for these refugees for their basic human rights. The children must be provided education, food and basic health care facilities. They must be mingled with the society. They must be provided the shelter. Afghan pregnant women must be provided better health care facilities for her and her newborn.

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