

The Growing refugee movement in India and its impact on the economic, social and political life of the India subcontinent

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Abstract: The growing refugee in India as become a matter of concern today. India is home to the maximum number of refugee in the world and especially to South Asia. India and no country in South Asia has a refugee law or policy to counter the issue of refugee movement, the refugee usually come and settle in the third world countries. There have been many illegal migrants coming and settling in India which has formed grounds for terrorism in India, refugee is also responsible for the rise in population, Unwanted Migrant such as refugee movements can also threaten inter-communal harmony and undermine major societal values by altering the ethnic, cultural, religious and linguistic composition of the host population, as in India's North East. Refugees at times also serve as a threat to cultural identity and can become a product of International Conflict. In order to count such problems it is necessary to make separate laws for refugee, along with that provide them separate identity cards and living facilities , restrict them from voting rights and marriages between refugee and a non-refugee to reduce issues.

Keywords: Refugee, South Asia, India, Refugee law, refugee policy International conflict

Introduction

Throughout the history many initiatives have been taken to eradicate the plights of refugee and displaced person .Refugees are human beings undergoing shocking experiences. They are producers and workers in transmit from one economic environment to another. They are political people and find their interpretation in the political events that have set them flight and they pose important questions on sovereignty, Human rights and the relationship between states and nation in the International order. As long as man continue to remain intolerant of his fellow-men, flight will continue to be the only alternative of the ill-treatment. Those people who are deracinated from their homes and denied the basic freedom of life, have no option but to find shelter elsewhere for their survival and a life with human dignity, they are international refugee vamoosed from their country where they were feared and have suffered oppress or being treated in an ill-mannered way. The world has diminished and the problems of refugee, displaced persons, minorities and war victims have become a centre of concern for the International community. Wars and many other military and political conflicts have resulted in countless number of deracinated including millions of refugee in search of new homes. The emergence of many new national states often necessitate changes of regime and of boundaries , the struggle for decolonization and the reshaping of the whole areas have also brought about an endless stream of Human misery .The plight of the refugee has been a challenging to the conscience of public spirited persons in many countries . With the failure of the league of Nation, and establishment of United Nations and also established an International refugee organization (IRO) which was replaced by the United Nation –High Commissioner for refugees (UNHCR). In the same year an international convention entitle Convention relating to the status of Refugee was drawn in 1967 , presently there are 135 state parties to these two international instruments .It is estimated that most refugee are in the developing countries because that is where conflicts are taking place out of which 80% are women and children. Throughout history every part of the world, people have been deracinated by mistreatment, conflict or environmental disaster. Over the past 30 years 700 people per day have been forced to leave their homeland and become a refugee. The world refugee population now exceeds 13 million. In recent years the root cause of refugee problem has become complex, with a number of people, for a number of reasons shifting to different countries it is becoming difficult to distinct between refugee and non-refugee. However it is estimated that massive movement of refugee from states and countries where violence and armed conflict are at a high rate. The Civilian population, especially in the rural areas are caught between these conflicting forces , communal violence is one of the most frightening form of conflict where member of one ethnic , religious or linguistic group clash with their neighbouring members of other , threatening social groups and minorities and indirectly causing flight of large number of people. Environment catastrophe like drought and famine have forced people to migrant followed by deforestation , desertification, rapid urbanization and ineffective agricultural policies also contributes to the uproot for more people from their homeland , over here the most effected people are the poor and homeless .

Research Methodology

For the purpose of this exploration, I have used an amalgamation of two of the archetypical social sciences research tools application—as they are authentic and brilliant method to assemble statistics from multiple appellant in an methodical and convenient way. Question were asked to the parents and their children, survey, interviews –consisting of several interrogation which were dispersed among representative of each contender group.

Objective of the Research Paper

The main areas of exploration in this paper incorporates

1. To understand the refugee problem across the world
2. Indian History of accepting refugee since 1947.

3. How is refugee becoming a problem in India.
4. How can we resolve the problem of refugee in India.

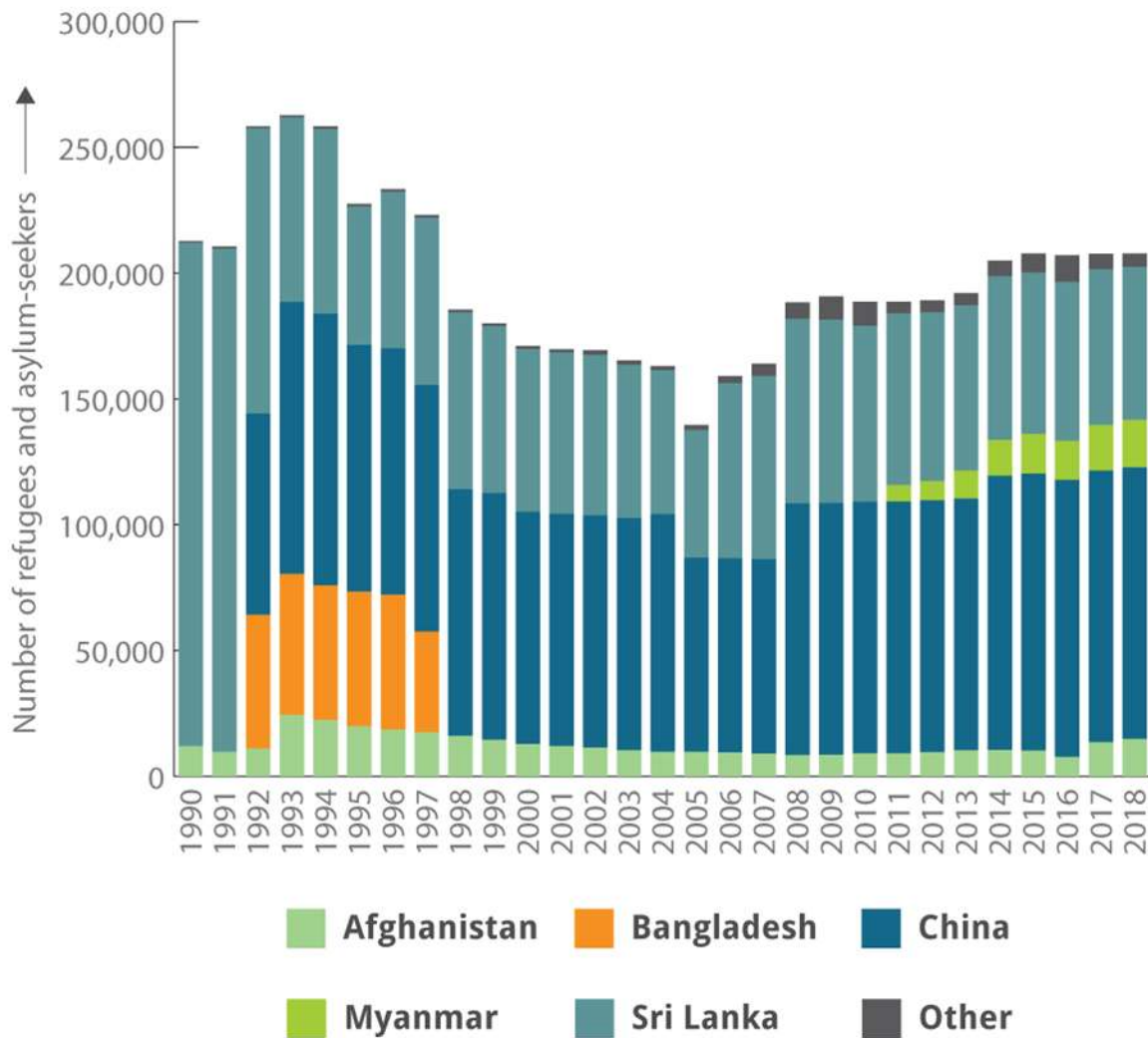
Literature Review

In the post cold war era security has obtained a new and more compound crucial .Traditional political and military issues followed by ethnic conflicts, refugee and migrant flow and population growth. Major threats are rising in Third world countries and Eastern Europe due to political and social instability due to ethnic, religious tension or inter-community, or economic upheaval .This contributed to an increase in refugee and migrant workers across the world. The extensive change and uncertainty generated by the end of cold war and uncertainty in the Middle East have triggered and continue to do so with new mass movement of people across the globe. Today majority of the mass movement are caused by war, ethnic and socio-economic inequality. Domestic conflict and political inability are product of economic underdevelopment and unable to maintain ethnic division between the state. These circumstances not only generate refugee flow but also make the resolution of refugee problems in the development world complex. At present more than half of the world's refugee are fleeing from communal based violence and this flow is likely to continue. this is evident in Eastern Europe, former Soviet Union and the Middle East, where long standing conflict are more evident compared to the situation during the second world war, it is more common to occur between indigenous population in Latin America and elsewhere Further refugee movement can both generate or aggravate conflict between neighbouring states and challenge the integrity of the host state. Refugees and other migrants are frequent recognized by both sending and receiving states as a threat to the stability and as a bilateral problem with major national security implications. India has been home to 199, 937 refugee and 5075 asylum seekers according to a report, 2014. Unwanted Migrant such as refugee movements can also threaten inter-communal harmony and undermine major societal values by altering the ethnic , cultural , religious and linguistic composition of the host population , as in India's North East .Refugees at times also serve as a threat to cultural identity and can become a product of International Conflict .

Findings

India has been home to refugee since the period of 12th century to 20th century for religious persecution of Paris to India followed by Partition of India in 1947 where refugee from East and West Pakistan entered India , 1960-70 Indo-Bangladesh war , around one lakh people migrant to India , 1959-1960 –Annexation of Tibet by China ,where Tibetians moved to India , Since 1960s India has been hosting 100,000 Tibetan refugees and some 5000 Buddhist Chakma refuges from Chittagong hill tracts in Bangladesh 1979 war when Soviet Union invade Afghanistan , India gave refugee to Muslim Migrates , from 1980-2000 Sri Lanka , Civil War where Sri Lanka Tamilians moved to India followed by which we have 2015 to 2017 , Myanmar war , India gave Homage to Rohingyas. The state of India and Pakistan witnessed humongous refugee movements from the time of partition, 7.5 million Hindu and Sikh Refugee from Pakistan crossed over to India and 7.2 Million Muslim refugees went to Pakistan from India. It has been recorded as the largest refugee movement in History. There has been very little International assistance in this Humanitarian crisis. India neither has a refugee law or policy nor India is part of the 1951 UN Refugee Convention or 1967 Refugee protocol. India does not work according to the UN Refugee convention. India has allowed UNHCR to assist about 27,000 refugees and 6000 asylum seekers on pure Humanitarian grounds Sri Lanka has often been labelled as an Island of Refugees due to external displacement of Tamils and internal displacement of Sinhalese, Tamil and Muslims. Sri Lanka is not known as an asylum country, but a refugee producing country. Out of all the SAARC countries, Maldives neither produced nor hosted a remarkable refugee population.

Refugees and asylum-seekers in India by country of origin, according to the UNHCR



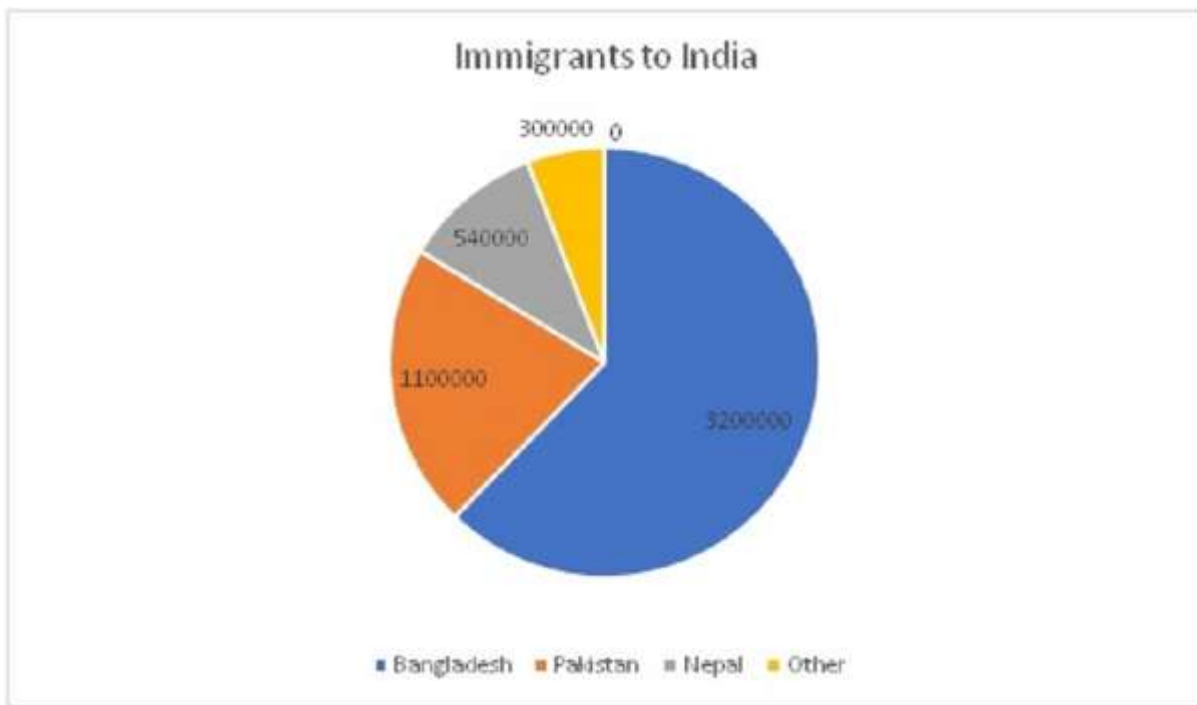
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Source: UNHCR

SAARC countries argue that the 1951 convention or 1967 Protocol is not sufficient enough to address the present refugee issues in the region which are a product of internal conflict and not due to the fear of persecution by the states. Refugee situation in South Asia has become persistent and effected both national security and inter-state relations due to the unwillingness of the state to discuss them on pure humanitarian grounds , all refugees are considered as illegal aliens there is no institutional protection or rule of law , a regional convention or Declaration on refugee by SAARC countries have become timely and relevant .A regional agreement on the question for who a refugee is the granting of asylum and exceptions , the Fundamental concept of refugee or the voluntary nature of eventual repatriation of refugees would reduce the friction between the state dialogist .A SAARC refugee convention has been a positive step in developing a humanitarian regime in the region.

In India the superior courts have addressed certain humanitarian concern of the refugee on the basis of human rights and constitutional guaranteed fundamental rights no such development has taken place in any SAARC countries .The persuading political and security pre occupation of each country indicate the standards of treatment for the refugees . By developing a regional convention on refugee the SAARC countries have recognised and redefining the exiting humanitarian norms and policies but also have developed a set of administrative principles which will promote the organization solidarity and its commitment to Human Rights . There are second opinions an advises of having a regional or a national instrument, but the demand for a specific legal instrument on refugee. The South Asian countries have taken a stand on the refugee regime rather than dealing with the same through administrative measures.

Refugee phenomenon results in legal, political, security, sociological and psychological problems South Asia has different types of displaced problems , Bangladeshi and Nepalis in India are having a better quality life . Internal displacement where people are shifting from villages to cities for better jobs facilities or due to environmental disaster one has to leave their homeland is all together a different issue



Refugee in South Asia have been captivated in the region itself. We can identify three factors which helps in identifying the geographical destination of refugees first easy access, for instance India is easily accessible for Chakmas, Tibetans and Sri Lankan Tamil. In case of Afghans refugees in Pakistan 80% of them were supplanted from the Pakistan-Afghanistan Border within 250 Kms followed by second factor would include Cultural Linguistic affinity, the Sri Lanka Tamils and the Tamils in India, Pathans and Afghans in Pakistan share a mutual language and language, the third and an important factor includes political support by the host government, India support for Sri Lanka Tamils and Pakistan support for Afghans factors stimulate the refugee movement into these countries, India does not generate refugees for many reasons but three important reasons behind this incorporates India has a large cooperative federal system where even the states accept people in suffering, if there is a mass movement in a state, there is assimilation by other neighbour states. Secondly both the state and the central can engage in shocks and violence which also results in quick restoration of peace and last reason would be the situations in the neighbouring countries are worse than India, so there is no emigration from India to them. The refugee management system in South Asia has not been constant and we see rapid changes in their policy framework, two elements that shape state attitude in accepting or refusing the intake of refugees include humanitarian and national security. Refugees might become a threat to the host country in a number of ways like differences in cultural identity, threat to national security followed by socio-economic burden, the countries of origin are at risk, when the host country armed refugees against the country of origin, for instance the host country armed Tamils, East Pakistan and Afghans to pursue their foreign policy objective. There are even examples where the refugees have influenced the host country's foreign policy against their country of origin for instance Sri Lanka Tamils who told refugees in Tamil Nadu.

At times refugees also join hands with terrorists in the host country, being a part of small arms groups and running drug business and drug smuggling which has a harmful effect on the country of origin and the host country which has provided shelter to them, for instance there has been an increase in the rate of drug addicts since 1979. The catana between the bureaucrats, military and politicians with drug loads has made the situation worse in Pakistan.

There are three emerging frameworks penetrating the refugee condition in South Asia which include Hidden Losers, apathy towards the suffering of others and aid lethargy. The rapid refugee movement across the globe is causing a threat to national security and especially in the third world countries has an equal effect on the international relations and foreign policies of the host and country of origin. The refugee movement is becoming a matter of concern at the international level and requires immediate action.

Proposal

1. We need to introduce special medical and health care facilities for the refugees to provide them maximum support at minimum price.
2. We need to provide education facilities to the refugees in India, by opening more schools for them and allow admission of the refugee children in primary schools.
3. We need to protect refugees from gender-based violence and political impact during the time of border dispute.
4. We need to introduce refugee law in India to protect their basic rights and freedom with India having the maximum refugee population.
5. We need to organise free food packets at least once a week and provide food packages to the poor refugee group promoting food security and safety management for their living and provide maximum support.
6. We need to introduce separate ID cards for the refugee people in India for their identification and stop the entry of illegal migrants in India.

7. We need to provide Special shelter for the refugee along with allocate specific regions for them state wise for their peaceful living.
8. We need to promote refugees people in economy sector with proper observation for their economy growth and over all development of our country.
9. Refugees in India should be Restricted from voting, social right (marriage, religion based social engagement, political warfare to protect them from violence and from becoming a victim of political game.

Conclusion

India is home to 200,000 refugee who are living in the urban sector of India in the densely populated location, they don't have much access to economy support as they don't have any legal status, and the rapid environment deterioration. The sudden declaration of Lockdown in India gave rise to serious problems for the refugee community who had to travel long distance to go back to their homes as they had no permanent living facilities .India is the crossroad for refugee in South Asia, but with no refugee law or policy existing in India for their safety and security, they don't receive education or other necessary facilities. India has refugee from all its neighbouring countries and with that we see a rise of many illegal migrants entering India especially from Bangladesh, which has also contributed to the rise in population in India and causing serious issues for people.

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