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Stateless Rohingya Refugees in Bangladesh: Life and Livelihood Challenges

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Abstract: Rohingya is one of the most persecuted ethnic minority groups in the world, as identified by United Nations. More than one million Rohingya refugees, over half of whom are children, live at various camps in Cox's Bazar district in Bangladesh. This study uses a mixed methodology approach based on primary data to examine the life and livelihood challenges of Rohingya people in the refugee camps. The study's findings reveal that there is a severe scarcity of basic human needs in the Rohingya camps and a prevalence of widespread human rights violations. Among the life and livelihood challenges in the camps are- poor health services, the weak structure of shelter, scarcity of nutritious food, inadequate water and sanitation infrastructure, lack of education facilities after secondary school, gender-based violence, insecurity, congestion and lack of privacy, limited freedom of movement, and high risk of landslide. The study's findings may guide governments and NGOs operating in Rohingya camps to ensure the community's basic needs and human rights.

Keywords: *Rohingya, Refugee camps, Livelihood, Bangladesh, Myanmar.*

1. Introduction

Myanmar generates the most refugees (1.2 million) in South Asia, and Bangladesh is one of the significant refugee-hosting nations (Kudrat-E-Khuda, 2020). After August 25, 2017, around 1 million Rohingya refugees escaped from Myanmar to Bangladesh (M. A. Uddin, 2021). However, six decades of state-sponsored ethnic cleansing were carried out by the military, and they were denied access to all types of citizen facilities based on their ethnicity. Due to these circumstances, they were forced to migrate to Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, India, Thailand, Indonesia, the UAE, and other countries (Shivakoti, 2017). Since then, an estimated 745,000 Rohingya people have fled to Cox's Bazar, including over 400,000 children. There was a Rohingya influx in 1978, 1991–1992, and 2016. Women, girls, boys, and men of the Rohingya ethnic group were pushed into Bangladesh due to this persecution; the military also killed men and boys. With this oppression towards the Muslim minority and the intensity of the violence, the most incredible and quickest refugee migration into Bangladesh occurred in August 2017 (Ty, 2019). On August 25, 2017, a significant number of Rohingya were forced to evacuate their homes in Myanmar and cross the border into Bangladesh to avoid severe ethnic violence (UNHCR, 2017)(Masood & Uddin, 2020). The government of Bangladesh took in around one million Myanmar nationals called "Forcibly Displaced" (Chowdury, 2018). Nevertheless, since Bangladesh was not a member of the Refugee Convention in 1951, the Rohingya are not considered refugees.

Even though the government of Bangladesh has kept its borders open, refugees are nonetheless unable to get formal legal status, are subject to severe movement limitations, and are unable to find employment legally (ACAPS, 2017; Karin, 2020). They lack access to basic necessities and human rights while residing in hurriedly built shelters known as refugee camps. Due to security concerns, the Rohingyas are constrained to living in camps and are unable to return to their homes in Myanmar. Apart from various studies on the Rohingya crisis, the present study aims to address the life and livelihood challenges faced by the displaced people living in the camps. The majority of Rohingya people have been living in the camps since 2017; they are hosted by the Bangladesh government and international donor agencies (Syed Magfur & Nasruzzaman, 2020). But their situation, day by day, is getting beyond control. Donor agencies focus on maintaining living standards and working for various awareness and rights programs, indicating that their situations are getting out of control. By this time, more than 500,000 Rohingyas had unlawfully obtained Bangladeshi national identities and were on the run-in countries, including Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Dubai, and Oman. These two ways, internal and external dangers, are becoming more difficult for the Bangladesh government to control (Ubayasiri, 2019). Historical evidence indicates that Muslims were first established in the Arakan region in the eighth century (Mohajan, 2018; Dadan & Fuad, 2018). For more than 350 years, until the Burmese takeover of Arakan in 1784.

They were the dominant power in the Arakan state (1430-1784 AD), Chittagong, Bengal, and some regions of India (Fuad & Dadan, 2022). Furthermore, Myanmar won its independence from Britain in 1948, shortly after the conclusion of the Second World War. The country has traditionally functioned as a parliamentary democracy since its inception. When military ruler Ne Win took control in 1962, this democratic process was ineffective (Knuters, 2018). Furthermore, it is known that the first migration under coercion took place in 1978, and subsequent migrations under coercion took place on many occasions in 1992, 2012, 2014, and 2016. Hence, given the context of the Rohingya community living in Bangladesh, the present paper is organized into five sub-sections. Following the introduction, a detailed literature review is presented, followed by the methodology of the study. The study concludes with a conclusion, presenting the findings and discussion section.

2. Literature Review

Demography of Arakan: Arakan is home to two notable ethnic groups: the Maghs and the Rohingya. The majority of the population, known as the Rohingya, practice the Islamic religion (Al Marjuk, 2022; Parnini, 2013). On the other side, the Maghs or Rakhains were a small group that adhered to the Buddhist faith. They had ties to the ancient Indian kingdom of Magadha, which is a source of information that more than satisfies our requirements. Before 1942, the Rohingyas and the Maghs had dominated the Arakan region, including every square inch of it (Dadan & Fuad, 2018). While the anti-Muslim riots that occurred in 1942 in Arakan, the Muslims of the region were driven to the southern section of the region. The hilly terrain of Arakan is home to a negligible number of the region's indigenous peoples' tribes, for instance, Mros, Kamis, Chaungthas, Chins, Saaks, Ahnus, Chaws, Khaungtsos, and Kons.

History of Rohingya Influx: The history of the Rohingya people and the history of Myanmar are intertwined. Myanmar officially recognizes 135 different races; however, certain groups, including the Rohingya, remain unregistered. Myanmar is, indeed, the most populous nation in South Asia in terms of ethnic diversity (Mohajan, 2018). Previously, Myanmar had a reputation for being a wealthy nation, and it was often referred to as the "rice bowl of Asia." It has abundant natural resources, including oil, coal, lead, tin, wood, hydropower, and others (CIA,2013). Its economic condition has deteriorated because of internal political instability, a dearth of human rights protections, international sanctions, and a lack of investment from outside sources (Ganesan & Hlaing, 2007). But as of the right moment, 32 percent of individuals live below the poverty line. Additionally, Myanmar has struggled with two issues: the absence of a democratic government that is responsible to its citizens and conflicts over minority rights. Due exclusively to these problems, Myanmar has been included on the UN's list of least developed nations since 1987. Myanmar is ranked 148th out of 187 nations in the Human Development Index published by the United Nations Development Program (M. D. M. Faisal, 2020; UNDP, 2019). The capital of Myanmar is Yangon, and Burmese is recognized as the country's primary language. It is bounded to the north by China, to the south by the Andaman Sea and to the east by the Bay of Bengal.

To the southeast, it is bounded by Thailand, to the east by Laos, and to the west by India and Bangladesh. The Yangon Region, the Mandalay Region, the Magway Region, the Sagaing Region, the Bago Region, the Ayeyarwady Region, and the Taninthayi Region are the seven regions that make up this country. In addition, Myanmar is divided into seven states that go by the names of Kachin, Kayin, Kayah, Rakhine, Chin, Shan, and Mon. Estimates place the population at 60,584,650, not including the Rohingya, and the landmass at around 261,000 square miles, or 676,578 square kilometers (Mohajan, 2018). Formally, the government of Myanmar acknowledges a total of eight distinct ethnic groups. Burman, Karen, Mon, Rakhine, Karenni, Kachin, Chin, and Shan are the names of these groups of people. Sub-ethnic groupings exist inside each ethnic group (Than, 2007). The Burmans make up 68% of the overall population, making them the largest ethnic group in the country. Shan people make up 9% of the population, Rakhine people 4%, Karen people 7%, Chinese people 3%, Mon people 2%, Indian people 2%, and other people 5%. They did not formally recognize the Rohingya people as legitimate citizens. The geographic region that is considered to be the heart of Myanmar is home to the Burman people. The Kachin, Rakhine, Shan, and Chin people, together with members of other ethnic groups, are predominantly concentrated in areas close to the territories that divide the nations. Some of the minority ethnic groups have a presence on both sides of the border with the nations that surround them.

Table 1: Ethnic Groups Covered Areas

Ethnicity	Percentage
Burman	68%
Shan	9%
Karen	7%
Rakhaine	4%
Indian	2%
Chinese	3%
Mon	2%
Others	5%
Total	100%

(Ullah, 2011).

Myanmar's government has declared it a Buddhist state (Biver, 2014). 89% of the population is Buddhist, 4% is Muslim, 4% is Christian, 1% is an animist, and 2% adhere to some other religious tradition out of the total 60 million people. Most people speak Burmese. There are about 200 languages and dialects that are spoken by many groups are minorities.

Relocation in Bangladesh: In August 2017, a beautiful coastal region comprised of two sub-districts with a combined population of 300.000 people witnessed the beginning of what would become a one-million-strong migration of Rohingya refugees leaving Myanmar. People have begun to haphazardly settle on the slopes of the Chittagong rainforest, chop down trees, and clear land (Uddin & Nesa, 2021). In the vicinity of the well-known beaches of Bengal Bay, individuals have been known to construct makeshift homes using almost nothing. There are now around 900,000 Myanmar refugees in Bangladesh, and humanitarian groups are struggling to cope with the magnitude of the problem due to the higher number of refugees (Arslan, Islam, Nahar, & Cansu, 2022). Also, more than half of the Rohingya refugees who are now housed in the camps are children. The monsoon season began in June, which contributed to the escalation of the humanitarian situation. This was due to the fact that heavy rain, high winds, floods, and landslides were responsible for inflicting damage on the refugee shelters. Despite ongoing relocations to safer ground, the camps in Cox's Bazar continue to be very crowded, with just 10.7 square meters available to each individual occupant (M. M. Faisal & Ullah, 2020). More land will need to be acquired to make room for these refugees, which will be difficult to do in one of the countries with the highest population density (Kolstad, 2018).

Response by the Local and International Community: Muslims who call Myanmar home but do not have Myanmar citizenship are known as Rohingya. The most recent departure occurred on August 25, 2017, when violence erupted in the Rakhine State of Myanmar. As a result, more than 742,000 people were forced to escape to Bangladesh (McCaffrie, 2019). Many refugees entered the country during the first three months while the crisis was in effect. A rough estimate puts the number of new arrivals in Bangladesh during the first half of 2018 at 12,000. Most persons arriving in Bangladesh are females and children, with more than forty percent being under the age of twelve (Afrin, 2022). The majority of the remaining people are older people who need more support and protection. They need everything severely, yet they have nothing to offer (Samarasekera, 2021). During the most recent crisis, the government of Bangladesh has been of assistance. The immigrants have also been welcomed into the rural areas of Bangladesh. They made every attempt to help, which strained their already limited available resources. In the aftermath of the monsoon rains, the humanitarian response in Bangladesh is still centered on meeting the country's enormous humanitarian needs and mitigating the consequences of the rains.

However, more international assistance is urgently required to move beyond humanitarian and day-to-day assistance and toward addressing medium-term challenges such as resilience, education, registration, and programs to protect the most vulnerable refugees: children, women, and people with special needs. This assistance must move beyond humanitarian and day-to-day assistance and address medium-term challenges (UNDP, 2019). The Inter Sector Coordinating Group (ISCG), the group coordinating responses to the Rohingya humanitarian crisis, stated: "The international community has given $340 million to the 2021 JRP, which corresponds to more than 35 percent of the whole demands." The Rohingya refugee crisis in Bangladesh,

which is now in its fourth year, has prompted aid organizations to send a unified plea to the international community, requesting that more assistance be provided (Arslan, Islam, Nahar & Cansu, 2022). The United States of America has pledged around 155 million dollars for the relief efforts, raising the total amount of humanitarian assistance provided by the US since 2017 to more than 1.3 billion dollars, including more than 1.1 billion dollars for programs in Bangladesh. Since the beginning of the crisis in 2017, as much as $2.32 billion has been promised to many different JRPs. During the previous four years, protecting Rohingya refugee settlements and the towns that hosted them required almost 69% of the total funding. To assist the Rohingya refugees and the people hosting them in Cox's Bazar, the United Nations requested more than one billion dollars last year. By the end of 2020, however, only 59.4 percent of the funding objective for this appeal has been raised.

Rohingya Camp Narratives: Since the present study aims to explore the life and livelihood-related problems and challenges in the Rohingya camps in Bangladesh, in this section, we tried to analyze the previous studies that focused on similar issues. A recently published book titled 'Rohingya Camp Narratives: Tales From the Lesser Roads Traveled', edited by Hussain (2022) covers human security, children's education, innovation, camp entry, and relocation plans of the Rohingya refugees living in Bangladesh. Among the recent studies, Akter (2022) tried to explore gender-based violence in the Rohingya camps. She claimed that there is sexual- and gender-based violence (SGBV) in the Rohingya camp that is committed by multiple stakeholders. Moreover, there are challenges and dilemmas related to primary education for Rohingya children in the camp areas (Suma, 2022).

3. Methodology

This research utilized both primary and secondary data and qualitative and quantitative mixed approaches. The research aimed to address one central question. What kind of crises and challenges are facing Rohingya refugees in the host country? Kutupalong expansion camp was selected for this study, and data were collected from January 29 to February 8, 2018. It is the largest camp in Cox'sBazar located in Ukhia Upazila's Raja Palong Union. Primary data was gathered through both structured and semi-structured questionnaires (Chowdhury, Oakkas, & Ahmmed, 2022; Choy, 2014). Besides, two Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) were conducted to validate the data (Akhter, 2022; Ara, Shahed, Rahman, Ahmad, & Das, 2020). Recent papers, peer-reviewed journals, reviews, academic reports, and books are included in the secondary data. Related literature is mainly collected through internet browsing. One hundred-five respondents from the Kutupalong expansion refugee camp participated in the survey. Interviews were conducted with five refugees, two Bangladeshi community members, and two Rohingya students studying for their post-graduation in Turkey. Moreover, questions were raised in the local languages of Chittagong and Bengali. The respondents were aged between 18 and 80. The questionnaire aimed to locate demographic details such as gender, age, marital status, Ethnic Group, educational level, past occupation in Myanmar and current occupation in Bangladesh.

And their views on health, education, housing, food, and freedom of movement. Regarding the sampling technique, we favored non-probability sampling (Moniruzzaman & Al-Muaalemi, 2022). This sampling technique is obtained representative of the population, and the researcher chooses samples based on experience and expertise. The sample is based on the case and convenience considerations in such a sampling technique. Among the four non-probability sampling types (convenience sampling, quota sampling, consecutive sampling, judgmental sampling), judgmental sampling was favorable, which more commonly selects only individuals they consider eligible to participate in the research. After data collection, the questionnaires were reviewed multiple times to check if they were thoroughly filled in. Ethical principles were considered during the data collection phase. Whenever the researcher spoke to a field respondent, he tried to take informed consent. During data collection, absolute confidentiality was maintained; the respondents' names were not revealed, and the data was accurate. Bangladesh army and security forces generated issues many times during data collection. Some refugee women mainly rejected us for speaking without a female interpreter. Moreover, when asked about sexual harassment, some women kept silent.

4. Findings

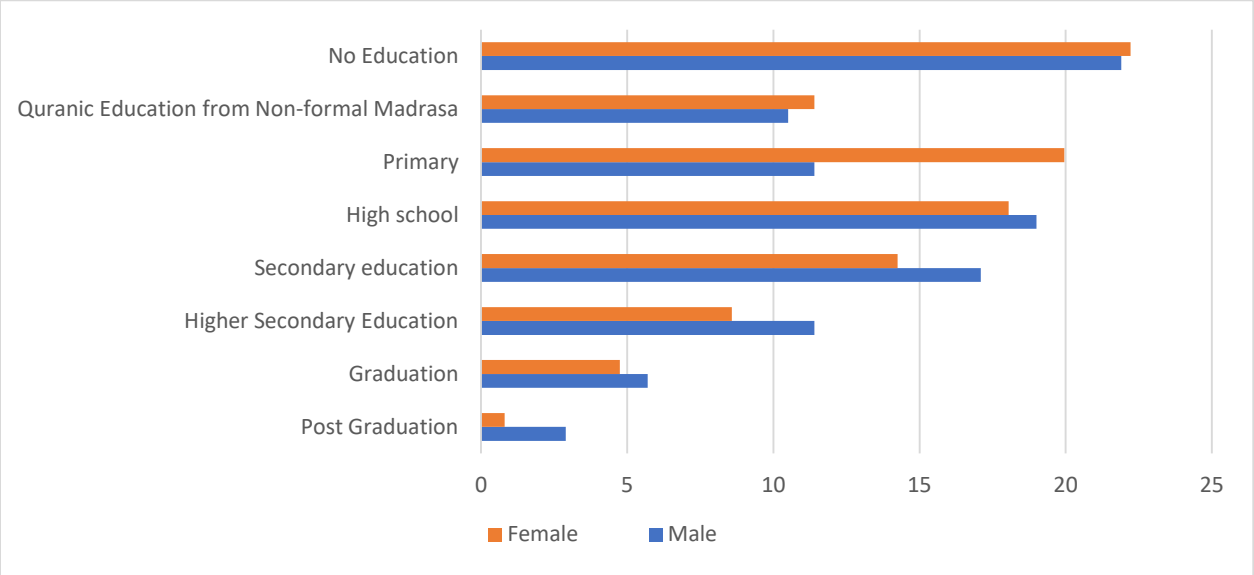
About 1 million Rohingya refugees live in Cox's Bazar district of Bangladesh. The Rohingya people have been

fleeing to Bangladesh from Myanmar's Rakhine state for the past 40 years due to racial and religious discrimination by the government and the Buddhist mob (Ana, 2010) For generations, they were deprived of their citizenship, identity, fundamental rights, etc. After fleeing, they have been facing several crises and challenges in the host country, although the Bangladesh government and global and national organizations are trying to protect their rights.

Demography of Cox Bazar Refugee Camps: 58 (55%) males and 47(45%) females in refugee camps were interviewed non-probability sampling basis. All the respondents were adults, and their ages were between 18 to 80 years. Around 86% of the respondents were married, whereas 96% were women and 76% were men. Comparatively, more female respondents were married than males.

Education Level and Profession: Among the respondents, 21.9% male and 22.22% female had no education. However, 10.5% of males and 11.4% of females had only Quranic education from informal Madrasa. On the other hand, 11.4% of males and 19.95% of females passed primary education. Only 19% of males and 18.05% of females completed high school education. Further, 17.1% of males and 14.25% of females had a secondary certificate. 11.4% of males and 8.58% of females passed higher Secondary, 5.7% of males and 4.75% of females completed graduation and 2.9% of males and 0.8% of females completed post-graduation. Males were more educated than females.

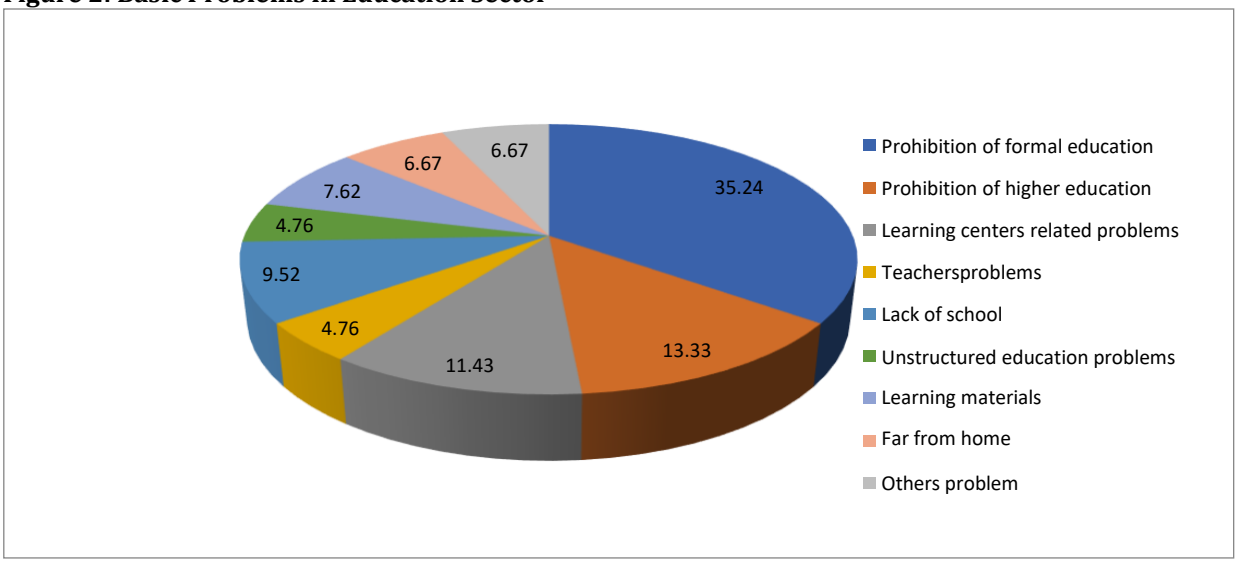
Figure 1: Education Level of Rohingya People



Among the 58 male respondents, 12.1% was farmer, 1.7% was college teacher, 3.4% was school teacher, 5.2% was primary school teacher, 13.8 was businessman, 19% was the seller of goods, 15.55% was NGO worker, 3.4% was driver, 10.4% was fisherman, 1.7% was guard, 3.4% was doctor, 1.7% was barber, 3.4% cleaner and 5.2% was in other professions (woodcutter, goldsmith and beggar. Together 75% of Rohingya people were farmers, business people, sellers, fishermen and NGO workers.

Right to Education in the Camps: Following the inflow in 2017, the government of Bangladesh, the United Nations, and several non-governmental organizations are working together to provide education to Rohingya children. However, their rights are severely constrained in the refugee camps in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. The Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commission (RRRC) and the Bangladesh Government's Policy is that formal education is not authorized in Bangladeshi Schools, as stated in the Join Rapid Needs assessment report (UNHCR, 2018)). They result from secondary schooling, college education, and further academic study. The office of the Prime Minister of Bangladesh has sent a warning to the Cox's Bazar district, instructing them to take the initiative against unlawful Rohingya children enrolled in various schools (Relief Web, 2019). The refugees were questioned on their perspectives on the school system's core issues.

Figure 2: Basic Problems in Education Sector



Among the respondents, 35.24% said the prohibition of formal education is the main problem, 13.33% on the prohibition of higher education, 11.43% on learning centers related problems, 4.76% teachers' problems, 9.52% lack of school, 4.76% unstructured educational problems, 7.62% on learning materials, 6.67% on far from home and 6.67% on other problems. These are the critical obstacles to accessing education. According to the report of Relief web, "On January 23, the Bangladeshi official responsible for refugee issues in Cox's Bazar made notice to the directors of seven secondary schools in Teknaf and Ukhiya to take strict initiative so that Rohingya children cannot attend any Bangladeshi educational institutions outside the camps" (Shohel, 2022). From 1990 to 2017, many students passed Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) and came to Bangladesh, but higher education was prohibited. Among them, some continue teaching professions in the learning center of the camps, some are illegally admitted to Chittagong-based universities or colleges, and some collect Bangladeshi passports and leave another country for higher education. Moreover, some Rohingya children born in Bangladesh after 1990 completed HSC from Bangladesh but are afraid of their higher education in Bangladeshi universities or colleges.

A respondent said, *"His family came to Bangladesh after 1990. He has born in Bangladesh. Later, his Rohingya family obtained Bangladeshi birth certificates and other documents to allow his education and other facilities as Bangladeshi nationality". (In-depth interview by Author, Rohingya boy from Refugee Camp, Kutupalong expansion side, Cox's Bazar)*. Many graduate students came to Bangladesh and failed to continue their master's at Bangladeshi universities. So, some of them came out of the country in illegal ways. One of the Rohingya students studying in Turkey came to Bangladesh on October 25, 2017. The Myanmar military force killed his father, wife, six-year-old son, and two-year-old daughter. They raped his wife and burnt her with two children. A respondent said, *"I came to Turkey through airport contact; though I had a Bangladeshi passport, the airport authority treated me as Rohingya. Our three friends paid 12 lakh (14300 US dollars) Bangladeshi Taka. After payment, they released us, and we took the plane" (In-depth interview by Author, Rohingya student from Ankara, Turkey).* Rahima Akter Khushi, 20 years of Rohingya girl, was born and raised in Cox's Bazar Balukhali refugee camp in Bangladesh. Her parents and 250,000 other Rohingya fled from Myanmar in 1992s to escape forced labor, persecution, and violence from Buddhist mobs. She completed her secondary and higher secondary exam with excellent Bangladeshi school and college results.

Challenges in the Refugee Camps: Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina, said that one million Rohingya refugees are a security threat in this region (Alam, 2018). Following the recent influx in 2017, the Bangladeshi government and the local population showed tremendous sympathy for the Rohingya refugees. Notwithstanding, they are now irritated by the detrimental effects of refugees and the ambiguous repatriation procedure. The following are some of the major difficulties that Rohingya refugees deal with on a daily basis.

Healthcare and Sanitation: The overall health status of the refugees is stable. But some concern is that the significant health problems are related to the substandard living conditions in the camp. A large population in a small space significantly impacts the quality of health. Several women, children and other Rohingya refugees face various kinds of water-borne and infectious diseases. Diarrhea, Measles, Cholera, Hepatitis A, Hepatitis E, Diphtheria, Typhoid and HIV are spread out as the major diseases in Rohingya refugee camps of Bangladesh. All diseases are concerning among refugees, including children and pregnant women. According to the UNHCR report, from August 25 to December 2, 2017, 63,750 Rohingya refugees suffered from diarrhea. They died 15,90329 from fevers, 75,271 from infections, 66,29,145 from skin diseases, 7345 from eye infections, and 7072 from malaria (World Health, 2018). A total of 1950 alerts were generated from January–to September 2018, and 2257 were generated from January–to December 2018. About 827 alerts were generated from December 302018-March 92019,364 alerts were generated from 4 March 2019-May 122019,332, and alerts were generated from 12 May 2019 to 20 July 2019. From the beginning of the influx on 25 August 2017 to August 2018, 3,963,990 consultations have been reported through EWARS. Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM), measles, diphtheria, Acute Jaundice Syndrome (AJS), confirmed malaria, suspected hemorrhagic fever, meningitis, adult and neonatal tetanus, dengue, and other consultations are also reported as illnesses (World Health, 2018).

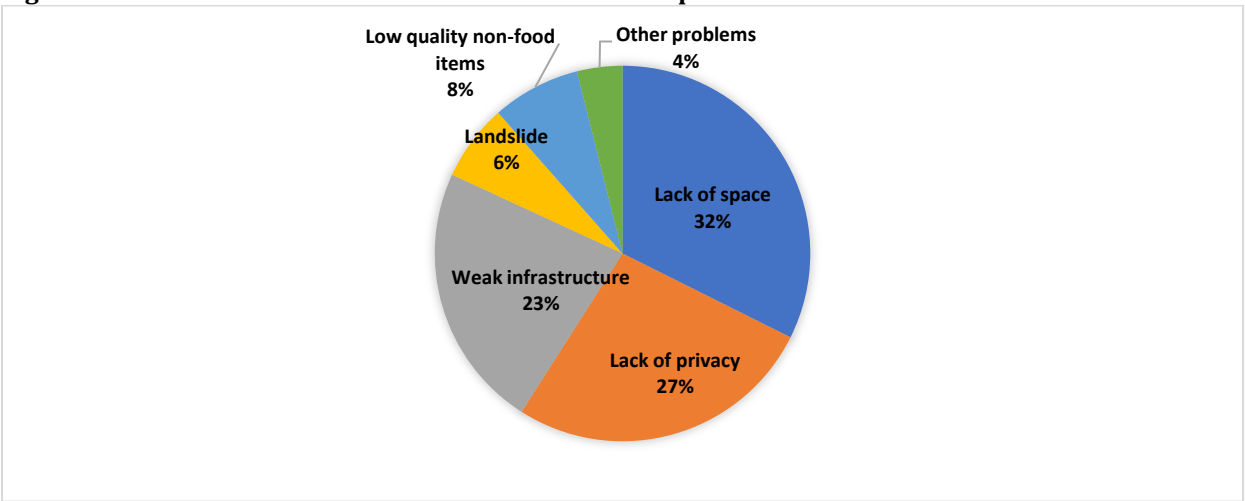
The number of hospitals, doctors and other staff is limited. People have to wait more time for emergency treatment. A Rohingya girl said, *"I went to the hospital for my emergency treatment, but I had to wait more than 3 hours for my serial. Doctors and other staff were not enough to cover properly". (In-depth interview by Author, a Rohingya girl from Refugee Camp, Kutupalong expansion side, Cox's Bazar).* Refugees sometimes face racism or misbehaving by health staff or doctors. An 18 years old Rohingya girl said, *"One day, I went to the hospital, and a doctor misbehaved with me. I was astonished at why he was doing this attitude. I had never faced this kind of situation before. When I protested his hate speech, he told me to hold my tongue because I am Rohingya, and I have no rights like them. On that day, I was hurt and cried a lot". (In-depth interview by Author, a Rohingya girl from Refugee Camp, Kutupalong expansion side, Cox's Bazar.* Rohingya refugees expressed their opinion about the satisfaction level of treatment. Among them, 6.6% of refugees are delighted, 61.9% are satisfied, 3.81% are neutral, 21.9% are unsatisfied, and 5.71% are very unsatisfied. Lack of medicine, proper medicine, doctors and staff behavior, level of treatment, and equipment cause dissatisfaction and dissatisfaction. The Rohingya refugees, particularly those who came from wealthy families in the past, are dissatisfied with the treatment they are receiving.

Accommodation: Beginning in September 1991, the government of Bangladesh began constructing makeshift shelters in the Cox's Bazar area. By the time the monsoon season rolls around, they have little chance of surviving. Recent figures obtained after the inflow that occurred in 2017 indicate that the typical size of a family consists of eight to ten people. No matter how many people live in the household, the size of the home will not change. A great number of refugees have found ways to cope by changing their housing units. For example, they have extended a 'veranda' into the hallway that separates sheds or divided a space that is around 9-10 square meters into two separate rooms. Refugee Respondent said, *"We are 12 members of my family. Our house is tiny compared to the family size. So, we divided our house into some rooms. But we have no privacy. Women feel uneasy about living together.*

They are not habituating to live current system because one day we had standard houses in Rakhine state where everybody had a wonderful privacy system" (In-depth interview by Author, 46 years old Rohingya man from Refugee Camp, Kutupalong expansion side, Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh). Refugees were asked about accommodation-related problems. Among the respondents, 32.37% said they face problems with the lack of spaces, and 26.66% said they have no privacy due to overpopulated areas. They need more areas to build their shelter. Most families have about ten members. Around 22.86% said they are facing problems with the weak structure. Sometimes government and private NGOs use immature bamboo and plastic, creating problems. During the rainy season and cyclones, their shelter easily collapses. About 6.6% said about landslide problems. Many people died due to landslides in this region. About 7.61% of people talked about the quality of non-food item kits. Some local partners or unofficial partners used low-quality items. Only 3.8% of people said other problems like fire, interference from local leaders and lack of continuous care about structures.

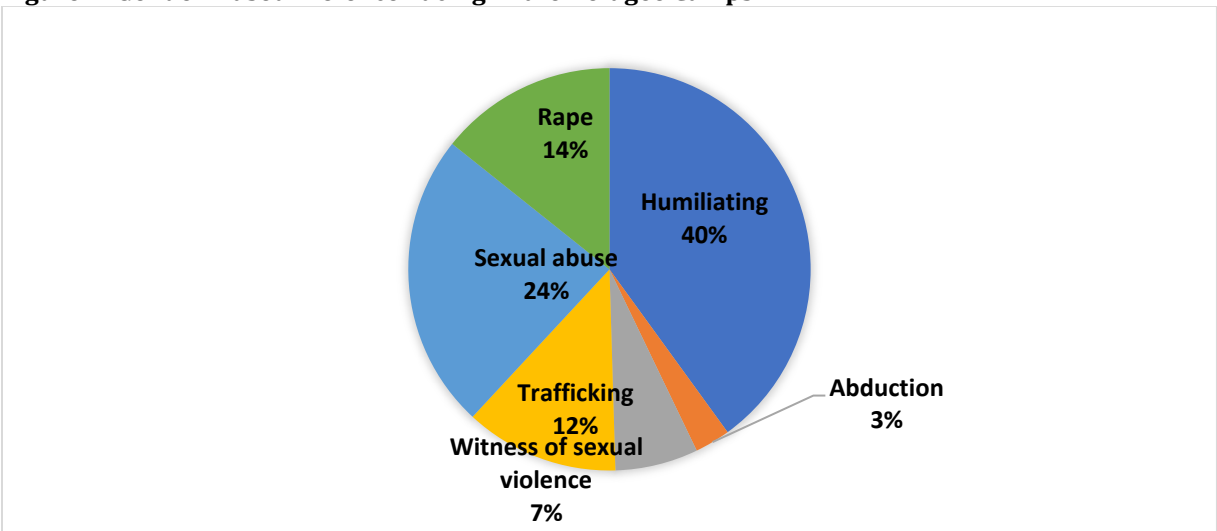
Gender Violence: Rohingya Refugee women are still now the most vulnerable. Their houses are very congested, and the population density is very high. So, women do not have privacy. Besides, several powerful Rohingyas always try to establish power in the camps. Occasionally the Refugee women are raped by their manipulations. As they are usually called "Illegal Migrants." So they cannot protest. It is also reported that young women and girls are being taken and trafficked into the sex-marked area nearby Cox Bazar and Chittagong. In addition, there were reports of child prostitution inside the camp (Pittaway, 2008). A 28-year-old girl said, *"Till now, I am not married. Early marriage is common in the camps for girls. When I was twelve years, I was kidnapped and raped by a camp leader who was Rohingya. That night, I was going to the toilet with my oil lamp in my hand. Suddenly someone attacked me from the backside, and I had seen him before. He hit me on the head, and I lost my sense. I forget everything after being kidnapped. My family member rescued me later" (In-depth interview by Author, a Rohingya girl from Refugee Camp, Kutupalong expansion side, Cox's Bazar).*

Figure 3: Accommodation-Related Problems in the Camps



Sometimes foreign men and NGOs also engaged in such an event. But how have the buyers taken them from refugee camps after the strict security of the military? Most of the time, the buyers use NGO's private cars and are shown the NGO logo. These kinds of private cars are safe to exit from camps with Rohingya girls. A member of the host community in Teknaf said, *"Rohingya girls left refugee camps with NGOs people for developed treatment. After exiting from the camp, they met buyers and engaged them in prostitution". (In-depth interview by Author, a Bangladeshi host community member, Teknaf, Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh).*

Figure 4: Gender-Based Violence Facing in the Refugee Camps



Refugees were interviewed in the Kutupalong camp on gender-based violence. They were asked, "What violence have you faced in the refugee camp? 14.28% were raped, 23.81% were sexual abuse, 12.38% were trafficked, 6.67% witnessed sexual violence, 2.85% abduction, and 40.01% were humiliated.

Human Rights Situation: In Bangladesh, the Rohingya refugees have been officially segregated and confined to the camps since 1992. Their freedom of movement is limited, and their jobs and other activities outside the camp are officially forbidden. However, in actuality, migrants do participate in labor outside of the camps, and several booths similar to those seen along roadsides have arisen inside the camps. The officials in charge of the camp no longer put up with behavior like this. If the refugees are found outside of the camp, they will be detained by the local police in addition to being punished by the camp police. A Rohingya respondent said, *"I was born inside the camp in 1992. My world is limited here. I have no right to go outside for education or a job. Last year I went Teknaf for work, but police arrested and penalized me". (In-depth interview by Author, a Rohingya boy from Refugee Camp, Kutupalong expansion side, Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh)*. Another 24-year-old Rohingya woman said, *"I do not go outside that much. Once my husband and I went to my aunt's house in Cox's Bazar.*

There, the police arrested my husband and beat him very much. After giving the money to the police, they released my husband".(In-depth interview by Author, a Rohingya woman from Refugee Camp, Kutupalong expansion side, Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh). The restriction on movement impacts the rights of livelihood. Some Rohingya seek informal employment in Teknaf, Ukhia and Cox's Bazar. They have the risk of being arrested or punished. A Rohingya girl stated, *"My husband went to cut wood in the jungle and sold those in the camp. But he stopped going there after extortion by the host community's people. He paid them 40 to 50 Taka (Bangladeshi currency). One day the local people took the money and his mobile phone forcefully when he refused to give him money. He bought the phone by conducting tarawih prayer during Ramadan" (In-depth interview by Author, a Rohingya girl from Refugee Camp, Kutupalong expansion side, Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh).*

Environment: Bangladesh is one of the region's most vulnerable to climate change's effects and deals with various environmental issues. Recent research conducted by the World Bank found that seven of the country's ten districts considered to be climatic hotspots are located in the Chittagong division, which is described as having a high degree of vulnerability to changes in temperature and weather. It is expected that the district of Cox's Bazar would see the most severe unfavorable consequences (Mani, Bandyopadhyay, Chonabayashi, & Markandya, 2018). The most significant environmental problems include- unhygienic housing standards in the villages, water supply pollution, deforestation, and the overexploitation of natural resources. All of which influence the lives of local people. In refugee camps, overcrowding and poor living conditions often lead to the spread of infectious diseases like AIDS, malaria, and diarrhea, amongst many others. Many of these diseases can affect the local population and the refugees, and some can even affect both simultaneously. The presence of Rohingya has led to the decimation of a forest that covers an area of 4,000 acres in Cox's Bazar. In addition, the World Health Organization (WHO) claims that the degradation and depletion of the water supply are linked to the deterioration of the environment, in particular, deforestation and the subsequent soil erosion and decrease of groundwater levels (Ahmed, 2018).

Security: The Rohingya refugee situation is no longer only a humanitarian concern. Instead, it poses potential threats to Bangladesh's internal stability and security, as well as to terrorist groups, confrontations between Rohingya refugees and host communities, and smuggling and trafficking (Myat, 2018). The terrorist organization known as ARSA has shown that it is attempting to recruit Rohingya militants from camps to engage in the cross-border trafficking of weapons and drugs, which poses a threat to both law and order and stability (Haque, 2016). In addition, Al-Qaeda began an internet campaign in which it demanded that the people of Bangladesh assist the Rohingya by engaging in terrorist activity directed at Myanmar (Myat, 2018). A few international NGOs working hard to provide financial support for refugees are also involved in criminal activity on the border between the two nations. An estimated half a million refugees came together on "Genocide Day," which was supported by some non-governmental organizations from other countries, to commemorate the second somber anniversary of their exodus from Myanmar. Before they consent to return, they want assurances about their citizenship rights and other safeguards. At the event, children, women wearing hijabs, and men wearing lungis sarongs chanted "God is Great, Long Live Rohingya" as they marched in the center of the world's largest refugee camp to commemorate what they referred to as "Genocide Day."

This was done to bring awareness to the Rohingya people's situation." After the influx, several clashes and killing incidents were held in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. On August 22, 2019, a Bangladeshi local youth political leader of a ruling party named Omar Faruk was killed by a Rohingya leader named Nur Alom. After this murder, police killed 8 Rohingya people, including Rohingya leader Nur Alom for his involvement in the murder of a Bangladeshi man. Nur Alom came to Bangladesh in 1992 and became a Bangladeshi voter. He also collected a 'Smart Card' in an illegal way. On January 23, 2017, the card was issued to his address under Chittagong City Corporation. A local Bangladeshi person said, *"Now, Rohingya is a threat to us, but I never support extrajudicial killing. If the Rohingya people were really convicted, the government should take the initiative under the law and rule of Bangladesh and the United Nations".* (In-depth interview from local Bangladeshi, Teknaf, Cox's Bazar). IOM counter-trafficking consultant Emmy Nurmila Sjarijono's remark can clearly recognize the ferocity of trafficking.

Human trafficking helps to create security concerns for states as a form of collective offense (Mahmood, Wroe, Fuller, & Leaning, 2017). A human trafficking network partnership, mixed with Bangladeshis and Rohingya refugees, presents the possibility of a non-state security risk to Bangladesh. *"Trafficking was already a problem in Cox's Bazar before the most recent influx of refugees from August 2017. With so many more people now at risk, it is important to work together with the police and other authorities to prevent an increase in trafficking victims over the coming month"* (IOM press release, 16 January 2018). She also argued that *"Rohingya children, women and men are targeted by traffickers who seek to exploit them in various situations including the sex industry, as unpaid domestic help, and in other forms of bonded labor. There is no single solution to ending trafficking, and aid ten agencies and the authorities must work together to build skills and share information about this grave issue"* (IOM press release, January 16, 2018).

Discussion

As a result of the fact that Bangladesh was not a member of the Refugee Convention in 1951, the Rohingya are not considered to be refugees but rather "forcibly displaced Myanmar residents." Even though the government of Bangladesh has kept its borders open, refugees continue to be denied formal legal status, are forced to deal with significant mobility restrictions and are unable to find employment lawfully (Hussain, 2022; Karin, 2020). Food scarcity is considerable in the Rohingya camps since most of the families depend on the food provided by the donors. The most pressing concern for the Bangladeshi authorities and other NGOs in Cox's Bazar is feeding the roughly one million Rohingya refugees who have fled to Ukhia and Teknaf. But it will be tremendous for one of the world's most populous countries (N. Uddin, 2018). According to research conducted late last year by the World Food Program and other aid groups, child malnutrition is particularly alarming. At least 24% of kids between the ages of six and 59 months in the Kutupalong area were underweight. The World Food Program (WFP) said that it wants to extend its current e-voucher program, which allows Rohingya refugees to buy 19 different types of food using prepaid debit card entitlements, as a result of the findings (Leidman et al., 2020). In the Rohingya camps, attaining education is a big challenge for the children.

Less than sixty percent of children in the camps are enrolled in any education, and even less than ten percent of those children are able to complete primary school (Prodip, 2017). In 2018, many Rohingya children took it upon themselves to set up makeshift schools within the refugee camps, using books and other educational materials published in Burma. Since the teachers need to earn a living during the day, classes at these schools don't start until 5 p.m. and run until 8 p.m. Long huts with two or three rooms serve as the specific location for these educational institutions. Community members constructed each of these makeshift homes (Hossain, 2021). The scarcity of land around the camp places makes it difficult to manage sludge. The latrines further pollute the tube wells since they have shallow pits and are close to water sources. Many of the bathrooms are unlocked or without doors, and other sites lack security lighting (Banerjee, 2019). The gender-based violence has prevailed in the Rohingya camps, especially among women and girls who face harassment. Women and children in the Rohingya camps endure a variety of forms of violence daily, including abduction, rape, and torture by the "night government," as well as domestic violence such as mental torture, verbal abuse, intimidation, economic marginalization, and sexual abuse by relatives and extended family (Akhter & Kusakabe, 2014; Stoken, 2020). There is a sizable network in South Asia that traffics women and girls, and if the camps on the Bangladesh-Myanmar border stay there permanently.

Traffickers may start to specifically target Rohingya refugees, using the camps as potential trafficking hubs (McCaffrie, 2019). A clear policy that includes their views is required to guarantee that Rohingyas' human rights are effectively respected (Mahmood, Wroe, Fuller, & Leaning, 2017). Refugees informed Amnesty International that they were often forbidden from leaving their temporary accommodations (Amnesty, 2020). Bangladeshi authorities must pay attention to the allegations and worries raised by the Rohingya families and civil society. They must conduct thorough, impartial, prompt, and independent investigations into all alleged extrajudicial executions. They must also ensure that those suspected of being responsible are tried in open courts without being given the death penalty (Amnesty, 2020).

5. Conclusion

As per United Nations, the most persecuted community in the world is Rohingya. Due to oppression and ethnic cleansing, more than one million Rohingyas are now living in the Cox's Bazar district of Bangladesh. Since Bangladesh is not a signatory of the International Refugee Convention, Rohingyas do not enjoy the rights of refugees. However, the Bangladesh government allowed various international NGOs to provide the basic human needs for the Rohingya community living in the camps. A good number of studies focused on specific aspects of life and livelihood at the Rohingya camps. However, the present study is attempted to address significant aspects of the life and livelihood challenges at Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar. To explore the on-site scenario, the study is based on primary data collected in both quantitative and qualitative approaches. The findings reveal that Rohingyas have been subjected to indiscriminate killings, arrests, and tortures. However, their life in the camps is also full of challenges.

The study's findings reveal that there is a severe scarcity of basic human needs in the Rohingya camps and a prevalence of widespread human rights violations. Among the life and livelihood challenges in the camps are- poor health services, the weak structure of shelter, scarcity of nutritious food, inadequate water and sanitation infrastructure, lack of education facilities after secondary school, gender-based violence, insecurity, congestion and lack of privacy, limited freedom of movement, and high risk of landslide. Compared to the progress of civilization, their life in the camps is far beyond the average living standard globally. The study's findings may guide governments and NGOs operating in Rohingya camps to ensure the Rohingya community's necessities and human rights. Although the study is based on primary data, it is limited to a relatively smaller sample size than the population. Future studies may be conducted using a larger sample size. Moreover, ethnographic studies may reveal other life and livelihood challenges in the camps.

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