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DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND REFUGEE

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Abstract:

A person who has been forcibly displaced and compelled to cross a national border but who cannot safely return home is considered a refugee. The refugee problem is a human rights issue involving a movement of persons from areas of denial to areas of guarantee. Today, the refugee crisis is one of the world's most pressing issues. It is the most difficult problem. When refugees are hosted in neighboring nations, they have a wide range of consequences, including economic, social, political, and environmental consequences. The main aim of this article is to explore the effects of refugees on developing host countries. The article is designed into five sections. Section-1 deals with the introduction; Concept of refugee is pointed out in section-2, section-3 points out the objective and methodology; Impact of refugee is pointed out in section- 4 and finally in section-5 conclusion has been outlined.

Keywords: Refugee, Host country, Displacement, Human rights, Malnutrition

INTRODUCTION

There are numerous issues in the world, including poverty, hunger, malnutrition, unemployment and violence. The sensitive issue of refugees is one of them. There are numerous causes of the refugee crisis. The majority of refugees are caused by grew international conflicts, massive violations of human rights, violence by World Wars, changes of nation-state boundaries, intensification of differences of opinion, international power-politics, race and religious strife, direct political persecution, and economic and national disasters, among other things. Nonetheless, the majority of refugee flows nowadays are the result of conflict (Gil, 1992). The current refugee situation differs from previous refugee problems due to its significantly wider position, different reasons political difficulty, and other factors.

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Refugee movements in South Asia started with the formation of the nation-state, with the partition of India and Pakistan in 1947, and later, with the birth of Bangladesh in 1971. The refugee crisis is a modern occurrence. It is the result of socioeconomic inequality as well as the First and Second World Wars.

CONCEPTS OF REFUGEE

Refugees are people who have crossed an international border in search of protection in another nation after suffering war, violence, conflict, or oppression. They frequently had to flee taking only the clothing on their backs and leaving behind their homes, belongings, employment, and loved ones. A refugee, according to the 1951 Refugee Convention, is "someone who is unable or unwilling to return to their country of origin due to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion." The United Nations' recommendation is the one that is most widely accepted. People who are outside their place of origin due to feared persecution, conflict, widespread violence, or other situations that have significantly disturbed public order and require international protection are known as refugees. Globally, 25.4 million men, women, and children had registered as refugees as of the end of 2017 (UNHCR, 2017).

OBJECTIVE

The main aim of this article is to study the impact of refugees on host developing countries.

METHODOLOGY

The article is both descriptive and analytical. It is primarily based on secondary data collected from current literature, books, journals, newspapers, articles, government records, and reports on refugees.

REFUGEE EFFECT ON THE HOST DEVELOPING NATIONS

Refugees are often viewed as a burden by their host nations because they create pressure on the budget and service of hosting countries. However, refugees can also support development by providing resources and skills, increasing demand for goods and services and raising production levels. To strengthen the good effects of forced displacement, it is crucial to supplement short-term humanitarian responses to refugee crises with longer-term development-oriented ones. The

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necessity of tying humanitarian aid to longer-term development planning is being recognized by policymakers more and more (OECD, 2017). Impacts of refugees are discussed below:

ECONOMIC IMPACT

By economic impact, we refer to how refugees affect the local economy, labor market, and trade in the developing nations that are hosting them. Below, we list them one by one.

(i) Impact on Labour Market

Numerous research and case reports (Whitaker, 2002) demonstrate that the presence of refugees in the hosting developing countries enhances the labor supply in the domestic market of the hosting nations. The local market's wage rate is reduced by the significant rise in labor supply. Refugees are willing to accept lower pay than natives. Thus, refugees contribute to lowering the wage rate on the labor market. In addition, the presence of refugees in host nations increases job competition.

(ii) Impact on Prices

The cost of goods in the host market is impacted by the presence of refugees in the host country (Whitaker, 2002). According to earlier research, a higher number of displaced people and higher food prices are related (Alix-Garcia & Saah, 2009).

(iii) Effects of Local Business

The inflow of refugees has an impact on the host countries' local trade (Jacobsen, 2005). Several studies have found that an increase of refugees boosts demand for goods and services. As a result, goods production rises. More economic activity generates more income. As a result of the increasing demand and low labor costs, local business owners and self-employed farmers will gain.

SOCIAL IMPACT

Local people have a high level of poverty and face greater chances of economic vulnerability in the majority of these nations hosting significant numbers of refugees. Their economic circumstances are not necessarily better than those who are seeking safety in their communities in this regard.

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POLITICAL IMPACT

The political situation of the host countries is generally not significantly affected by the presence of refugees. Salehyan and Gleditsch (2006) state that the following ways exist for neighboring nations to become unstable due to the inflow of refugees from other countries:

(i) The growth of rebel social networks and the spread of violence:

Refugee camps along the border of the nation of origin can provide as a haven for rebel groups, a base from which to conduct operations, and a source of potential recruits.

(ii) Making it easier for weapons, warriors, and violent ideas to spread internationally:

Refugees having the means and desire to engage in armed conflict can act as domestic opposition groups in their new nation.

Conflicts between the two parties: Refugees may constitute a security and political risk to the host nation, which can exacerbate bilateral tensions between neighboring nations.

ECOLOGICAL IMPACT

Refugees have an environmental impact on their host nation. We refer to the effects of refugees on land, water, natural resources, and slum expansion as environmental impact. Examples of various environmental kinds are provided by several studies (Jacobsen 1997). Serious environmental damages may be the reason for refugees' initial arrival period (UNHCR & FAO, 1998). Fuel wood shortages and water pollution in refugee camp settings are a couple of these acute repercussions. The nature of the environmental impact varies as the emergency phase ends and the refugees start to settle, yet it can still be substantial.

The following have the most obvious negative effects on the environment: (i) deforestation and the reduction of available firewood; (ii) land degradation; (iii) unsustainable groundwater extraction; and (iv) water contamination. Additionally, the disposal of human waste by those who have been forced to flee their homes might damage the area's groundwater and spread illness (UNEP, 2005).

The impact on sanitary issues has been significant. As we all know, poor sanitation in a community has an impact on its residents, who are more likely to contract diseases like cholera, malaria, diarrhea, or other related illnesses. Still, as noted by Dick (2002), bathrooms are a particular source of difficulty.

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CONCLUSION

It can be concluded that countries that take in refugees for a long time may face long-term effects on their economic, social, environment, political and security. The effects of a refugee presence on neighboring nations are not always negative. The presence of refugees has had both positive and negative effects on the neighboring countries. There are winners and losers among both the refugee and host populations when considering the beneficial contributions that refugees can make to their host nations. The social impact of refugees is inequalities between refugees and non-refugees and the resulting social conflict. Furthermore, the growing number of refugees in urban areas also requires urban planning and development.

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