



Impact of International Migration on the Socio-Economic Well-being of Afghan Refugees: A Study Conducted on the Refugees in Peshawar, KPK

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ARTICLE INFO

Article History:

Received:	Sep	09, 2022
Revised:	Oct	19, 2022
Accepted:	Nov	20, 2022
Available Online:	Dec	30, 2022

Keywords: Migration, Forced Displacement, Military conflicts, Well-being, Culture

Funding:

This research received no specific grant from any funding agency in the public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors.

ABSTRACT

Armed conflict, brutality, and political unrest have recently caused internal migration and displacements worldwide. During the past ten years, refugees have emerged as the world's fastest-growing demographic. Afghanistan has been an epicentre of political disabilities, civil and military conflicts, and scores of natural and man-made disasters including the recent 20 years of turmoil. A consequence of the turmoil is the huge number of Afghan refugees scaling to be the largest number of refugees around the world. The purpose of the study is to know the Socio-Economic well-being of Afghan Refugees after the migration towards Pakistan. The Universe of the study was Peshawar District of KPK Province. The study was quantitative in nature. Multistage sampling technique was used to collect the data from the refugees residing in Peshawar district. The result revealed that the situation of Afghan Refugees was better. Most of the Afghan Refugees were agreed that their socio-economic condition was improved. Most of the refugees had opinion that there were lot of cultural similarities with the culture of KPK that is why they got settled earlier and their well-being had not affected badly.

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Citation: Muhammad Mohsin Khan, S. K., & Khan, M. A. (2022). Impact of International Migration on the Socio-Economic Well-being of Afghan Refugees: A Study Conducted on the Refugees in Peshawar, KPK. *Contemporary issues in social sciences and management practices*, 1(2), 55-64.

Introduction

Armed conflict, brutality, and political unrest have recently caused forced internal migration and displacements worldwide. Most of the time, those who have been forcefully displaced lack the means to leave the area, so they either stay there or migrate to one of the nearby nations in quest of work. During the past ten years, refugees have emerged as the world's fastest-growing demographic. Afghanistan has been an epicentre of political disabilities, civil and military conflicts, and scores of natural and man-made disasters including

the recent 20 years of turmoil. A consequence of the turmoil is the huge number of Afghan refugees scaling to be the largest number of refugees around the world. According to the report by UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) on present situation of Afghan Refugees, published on 10 September 2021, the latest wave has forced more than half a million of people to flee from their homes. Afghans still make up one of the world's most significant long-term refugee groups after over 40 years of relocation. Although many Afghan refugees have moved to other nations, Pakistan continues to house the majority of people uprooted during the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979. With an estimated 1.4 million residents, comprising 54% men and 46% women, Pakistan is one of the greatest refugee-hosting nations in the world. Nearly 60% of refugees live in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Afghanistan's political and economic unrest and ongoing bloodshed have deterred refugees from returning to their country and led to a steady flow of Afghans into Pakistan. Since most of them are unwilling to return, the refugees have little expectations from the Afghan government. According to Pakistan's narrative on the repatriation of Afghans, two significant obstacles to ongoing return are the country's shortage of basic facilities and possibilities for employment. More crucially, Afghanistan's most recent government strategy on refugee return has failed due to unfavourable political and security circumstances (Kronenfeld, 2008).

Conflict is one of the major reasons of displacement of millions around the globe. Refugees arrive in host states with vulnerable state of mind and lose their resources behind due to conflict and violence. Majority of refugee populations move towards nearest state to find shelter. This creates difficulties for refugees and implications for host states which have to compromise by facilitating refugees in large numbers (Altındağ, Bakış, & Rozo, 2020). In this journey of competition by super power, Asian states faced mass exodus, Pakistan, Iran and India faced migration in large numbers (Cheema, 1988). Despite of having territorial dispute with Afghanistan, the government opened its borders to place millions of Afghan refugees and became main recipient of refugees. The region badly suffered due to political agenda of United States and Government of Pakistan as these states instrumentalised Afghan refugees. United states by excluding USSR strengthen its own base in the region and Pakistan favoured Afghan resistance to balance its regional position and form an amicable government in Afghanistan that protect its national interest (Schoch, 2008).

Pakistan currently placing 1.7 million registered with over all 3.7 million Afghan refugees in two of its provinces bordered Afghanistan, Khaiber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan. (Cheema, 1988). The government of Pakistan accepted refugees with open heart but soon after dearth of resources invited UNHCR to assist the country but with unobtrusive and unnoticeable way to control of refugee operations. UNHCR established permanent office in Pakistan and started largest supporting program ever taken over before. Ultimately there were more than 3 million refugees awaited for supplying solace goods such as food, clothing and shelter. UNHCR became key supporter of refugees by delivering building materials for refugee camps, supplying clean drinking water, veterinary services for their livestock and non-material support

such as free education and health facilities. No doubt UNHCR and international donors were involved in refugee assistance program but implications of migration on Pakistani society are fatal and calamitous (Schoch, 2008). According to an estimation by the end of 2001, the number of Afghan refugees increased to nearly five million which brought more challenges for government of Pakistan (Khan, 2016). The government believes that these refugees pose a security threat to the country as they are involved in smuggling of goods and individuals across the border. It is reported that Afghan refugees cross the border on daily basis and the Government does not have resources to control this flow (Margesson, 2007, January).

Migration is a long-age issue and can be traced back to the initial times of the present world. Migration occurs due to plenty of reasons and can sometimes be justified and sometimes not. In this study, our focal point, or it can be said that the study's main goal is to see the impact of Migration on the people who migrated from their home country due to war. As well as to look upon how these immigrants affected the host community. This study particularly revolves around afghan immigrants, who are settled in KPK province of Pakistan. Most of the Afghan refugees fled their country due to the Russian invasion, and the US. Similarly, the recent withdrawal of US from the Afghanistan has also pushed the Afghans to neighboring countries.

Objectives of the study

Following are the key purposes of the research

- To investigate the socio-economic features of the respondents.
- To examine socio-economic impact of migration on the Afghan refugees in KPK
- To identify what are the main facility being provided to Afghan refugees for there betterment.

2. Literature Review

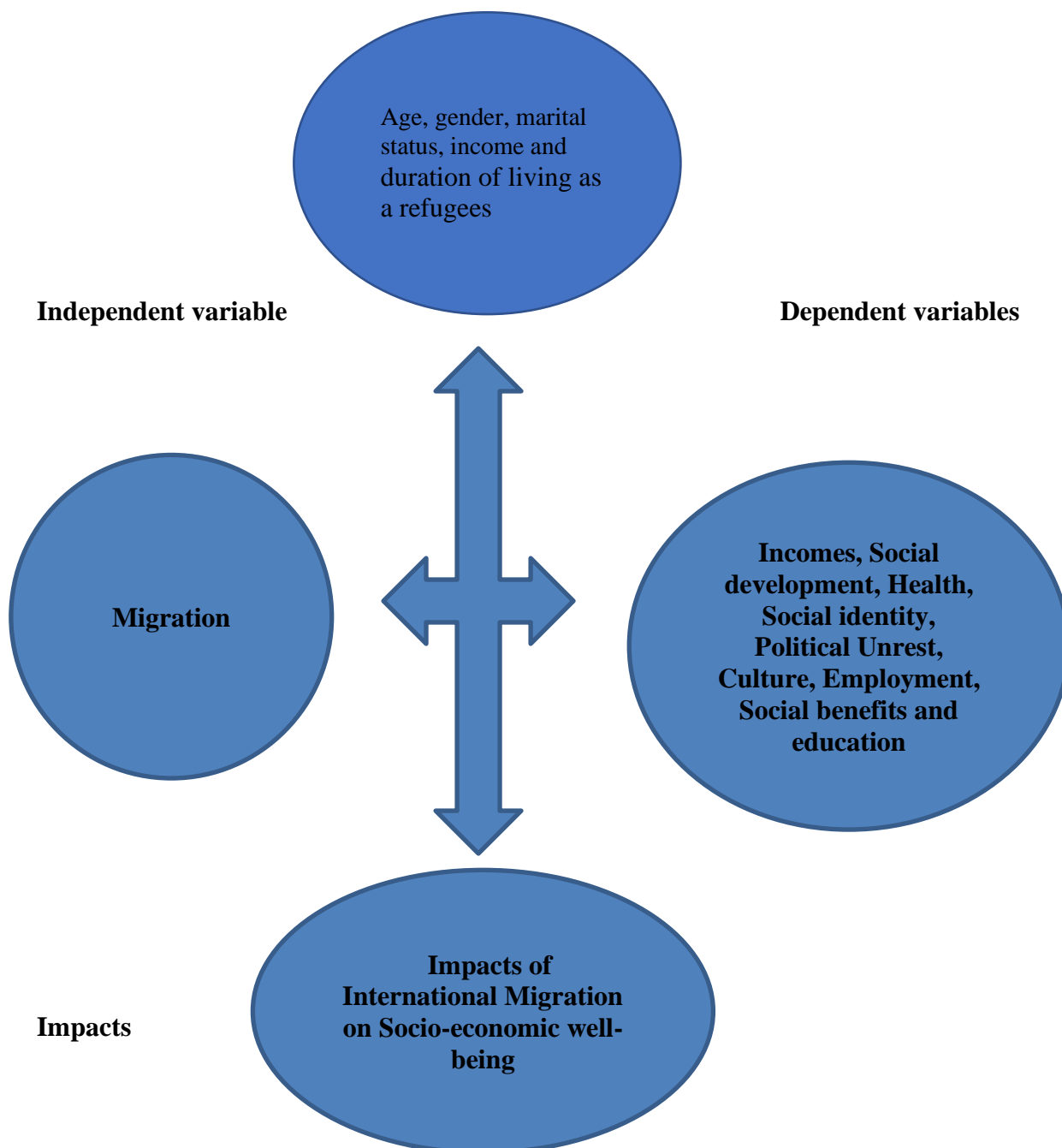
Beyond direct assistance, the refugees have progressively been given access to Medicare, education, self-reliance programs, water supply, agriculture, and livestock, among other essential services (Malik et al., 2019). Afghan refugees receive indoor and outdoor amenities in government clinics and hospitals in both tribal and populated areas; according to government figures, this group accounts for up to 30% of all patients at these facilities. "In the refugee villages, clinics have triggered a revolution for many Afghan women," writes a female western journalist on the Afghan refugee women in the camps under the heading "the unseen ladies." Ten non-profits' groups are assisting the Afghan refugee commission rate's project director for health with this humanitarian endeavour (Borthakur, 2019).

The most recent development grants 200 stipends and scholarships to qualifying and distinguished Afghan students for further technical and professional training in Pakistan or abroad (Kakar, 2000). With the passage of time and decades, refugees demand on resources, education, energy, transportation and employment were also increased which further created anger among locals of the two provinces (Aslam, 2001, Oct 28). There are also economic concerns that most Afghan traders have their business in different cities of Pakistan but do not pay taxes. For instance, In Peshawar alone, these traders became billionaire but still acquitted themselves from paying taxes. Such things created burden for local tax payers and businessman, and growth of revenue

collection is also badly affected (Roehrs, 2015).

Refugees need resources to live, such as Food, shelter, water, land and fuel as their basic needs with long term implications on sustainable reanimation. The environmental problems created by refugees are land erosion and decrease of land fertility. Cutting of woods and Food collection through hunting and foraging by refugee's increase pressure on environment. Moreover, human waste disposal may befoul ground water and become reason of spread of many diseases. In Pakistan more than three million refugees have contributed in the damage of roads and canals. Wood resources are used in large numbers to build shelter camps and for food purposes (Unite Nations Environment Program., 2005).

1.3 Conceptual framework



3.0 Methodology of the study

This research aims to study the impacts of migration on the well-being of refugees. A quantitative research approach is employed as the research design to address the research objectives and questions. The information was acquired utilizing the available literature and a questionnaire-based survey carried out in the study area. In the present study, Afghan Refugees residing in the city of Peshawar were unit of the analysis. The respondents were male and female Afghan immigrants residing as immigrants in the city of Peshawar. The analysis universe comprised district Peshawar (Hayatabad Phase-1, Board Bazar, karkhana Market, and Afghan colony). Multi-Stage and random sampling technique was used to drive the large population.

2.1 Data Analysis

2.1.1 Univariate Analysis

Table 4.1: Classification of the respondents with respect to life changed after migration

Categories	Frequency	Percent
Strongly I Agree	55	45.8
Agree	29	24.2
Neutral	15	12.5
Strongly Agree	10	8.3
Disagree	11	9.2
Total	120	100.0

The 4.1 table shows their data about life changed after migration. 24.2% respondents agree with statement and 9.2% respondents disagree regarding this statement. 45.8% migrated peoples strongly agree that their life changed after migration while 8.3% respondents strongly disagree and 12.5% respondents were neutral. The above table displays that most of the respondent's life was changed after migration and were strongly agree.

Table 4.2: Classification of the respondents with respect to migration played a positive role in my life

Categories	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Agree.	56	46.7
Agree.	28	23.3
Neutral.	15	12.5
strongly disagree.	8	6.7
Disagree.	13	10.8
Total	120	100.0

The 4.2 table demonstrates that 23.3% respondents agree that migration played a good role

in their life. 10.8% migrated peoples show disagree while 46.7% respondents express strongly agree regarding the statement. 6.7% respondents strongly disagree and 12.5% peoples express neutral about migration played a positive role. The above data shows that majority of the respondents express strongly agree that migration played a positive role in their life.

Table 4.3: Classification of the respondents with respect to UNO well looks after migrated persons

Categories	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Agree.	22	17.9
Agree.	47	38.3
Neutral.	16	13.0
Strongly disagree.	15	12.2
Disagree.	20	16.0
Total	120	100.0

The above table 43 shows that 38.3% respondents were agree that UNO well looks after migrated person, 16.3% respondents were disagreeing regarding the statement, 17.3% respondents were strongly agreeing while 12.2% respondents mark strongly disagree about the question. And 13.0% respondents were neutral regarding this statement. The table shows that most of the respondents were agree regarding UNO well looks after migrated persons.

Table 4.4 Classification of the respondents with respect to it was harsh for me to migrate from my homeland.

Categories	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Agree.	50	41.7
Agree.	35	29.2
Neutral.	11	9.2
Strongly disagree.	12	10.0
Disagree.	12	10.0
Total	120	100.0

Table 4.4 revealed that 29.2% of the respondents had answered Agree regarding it was harsh for them to migrate from homeland. 10% respondents express disagree it was not harsh for them to migrate from their homeland. 41.7% migrated peoples had strongly agreed regarding the statement. 10.0% respondents were strongly disagreed and it was not harsh for them to migrate from homeland. While 9.2% respondents were stand on neutral. So, the above table demonstrates that the majority of the respondents were strongly disagreeing and it was harsh for them to migrate from their homeland.

Table 4.5 Classification of the respondents with respect to health facilities are provided in abundance to those who migrated

Categories	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Agree.	78	65.0
Agree.	32	26.7
Neutral.	3	2.5
Strongly disagree.	3	2.5
Disagree.	4	3.3
Total.	120	100.0

The table 4.5 reveals that 26.7% respondents were agreeing while 3.3% respondents were disagreeing. And 65% respondents were strongly agreed whereas 2.5% respondents were strongly disagreeing and 2.5% respondents were neutral. The table shows that most of the respondents were strongly agree that health facilities are provided in abundance to those who migrated.

Table 4.6: Classification of the respondents with respect to migrants faced discrimination based on their immigrant status.

Categories	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Agree.	9	7.4
Agree.	12	9.9
Neutral.	13	10.7
Strongly disagree.	38	31.4
Disagree.	49	40.5
Total	120	100.0

Table 4.6 demonstrates that 9.9% respondents agree that migrants faced discrimination based on their immigrant's status. 40.5% migrated peoples show disagree while 7.4% respondents express strongly agree regarding the statement. 31.4% respondents strongly disagree and 10.7% peoples express neutral about migrants faced discrimination. The above data shows that majority of the respondents express disagree that migrants faced discrimination.

Bi-variative analysis

Hypothesis No 1

Ho: The health care of afghan refugees has not been affected by migration.

H_A: The health care of afghan refugees has been affected by migration.

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	Df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	189.453 ^a	16	.000
Likelihood Ratio	168.326	16	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	88.699	1	.000
N of Valid Cases	120		

The above table shows the hypothetical relationship health care and migration. The Pearson chi-square value of 0.000 which means there is a significant association between health care and migrations. Therefore, null hypothesis is rejected.

HYPOTHESIS NO 2

HO: There is no impact of migration on economy of migrant people.

HA: There is impact of migration on economy of migrant people.

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	Df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	317.663	16	.000
Likelihood Ratio	254.313	16	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	107.356	1	.000
N of Valid Cases	120		

The above table shows the hypothetical relationship there is impact of migration on economy of the migrant people. The Pearson chi-square value of 0.000 which means there is a significant association between the economies of the migrant people. Therefore, null hypothesis is rejected.

DISCUSSIONS

The research data reveal that the majority of the respondents were aged between 21-25 year years, while most of the migrant people were young because research also indicates that the majority of young respondents were in different sector like self-business (tea stalls, burger point, fruit stalls, etc). The greatest number of the respondent per month income between 31-40 thousand. Research also shows that almost migrant peoples live in rented homes because migrants are not rich enough to buy homes and respondents also ascribe that migration camps are not enough good to reside in. The migrant people also think that their life was changed after migration and migration played a positive role in their life. Consequently, for some of the respondents, it was harsh to

migrate from their homeland. This research also shows that most of migrated people affected their education standard, the data show that the industrial jobs of the local is not affect by the migration, rather industry has shown growth faster, because the local have learnt different skill from the immigrant and also immigrant has provided cheap labour to the industry.

This research also identifies about positive results of UNO programs that provided immigrant's ultimate support. Results also reveal that migration brings people together to make strong solidarity and also to exchange their culture, because most of the immigrant is happily married to the local. The local were too generous toward migrant. Result also shows that most of the respondents were treated equally as citizens of Pakistan. The data from migrant has shown that there are not been discriminated, they have given a same job opportunity. The migrant people agree that good health facilities were provided for them. The research also identifies the migrant's social and economic satisfaction. The data shows that the majority of the respondents feel comfortable with social and economic changes and positively modified their standard of living.

Conclusion

The issue of afghan refugees is still need of the hour. In recent development where Pakistan is facing a new wave of terrorism, this issue should be resolved and Afghanis should be repatriated to their homeland. Besides it, they should be given opportunity to get registered themselves to remain in the ambit of government so that their condition could be better.

Authors Contribution

Muhammad Mohsin Khan: Conceived the presented idea and developed the theory literature search, study design, data collection

Sharjeel Khan: Literature search, Methodology, proofreading and editing

Muhammad Arif Khan: Drafting and data analysis

Conflict of Interests/Disclosures

The authors declared no potential conflicts of interest w.r.t this article's research, authorship, and/or publication.

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