

IMPACT OF CURRENT AFGHANISTAN SITUATION ON AFGHAN REFUGEES SETTLED IN DISTRICT PESHAWAR, PAKISTAN

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ABSTRACT

To study the effect of current Afghanistan situation on afghan refugees settled in district Peshawar, KP, a sample of 280 afghan refugees were selected on referral basis. The analysis was done with the help of descriptive statistics. The sample of afghan refugees was selected from two different settled localities of district Peshawar i.e. 162 refugees from Hayatabad while 118 afghan from city areas of Peshawar. Also, in afghan refugees, there was 180 male afghan refugees and 100 female afghan refugees in which 61.1percent of afghan i.e. (161 afghan refugees) found scared from the current situation of Afghanistan whereas 38.9 percent of afghan refugees found not scared with the current scenario. The mean age of afghan refugee found as 35.4 years. Also 171 i.e. 61.1% of afghan refugee residing in Peshawar are depressed while 109 afghan refugees i.e. 38.9 percent found not depressed. Most of the afghan refugees found with the opinion of not visit to Afghanistan after the formal formation of government. Also, more of are the respondents are not in favor of Taliban government in Afghanistan and supposed USA responsible for all this in Afghanistan while the afghan refugees settled are not happy with the Taliban government.

Keywords: Afghan Refugee, Taliban, Descriptive statistics, Afghanistan, Taliban's Government.

INTRODUCTION

Refugees originates as violation of human rights. The refugees nowadays endure two different sort of violations i.e. inception flight toward another state and the hope of getting basic rights in the accepting state. The laws of placing refugees in the other state are well defined by the concern authority under its constitution and related standard of domestic and provincial rules and safeguards. The coping the humanity values govern from internal rules and treaties (Goodwin-Gill, 1983). The Pakistani Government looks and manages the issue of refugees according to national, international, domestic, social and political and humanitarian grounds (Khan, 2018). The Pakistan give way to Afghan refugees after the Soviet Union attack of Afghanistan. In Pakistan, the Ministry of SAFRON manages Afghan Refugees by providing a transitory residence cards to UNHCR registered Afghan refugees. The policy of ministry for every

Afghan refugee under the UNHCR mandate is to provide a temporary accommodation not the permanent shelter to displaced people.

Overview of Afghan Refugees' Situation in Pakistan

The Afghan refugees is the second largest refugee population in world accumulated by Pakistan in its locality because of neighborhood for the last decades. The refugees from Afghanistan sheltered in Pakistan since the late 1970s which may be classified into three groups. The first, in 1979, during the civil war when USSR's attacked Afghanistan, the second stream of refugees entered Pakistan when USSR began the withdrawal from Afghanistan in 1980, and third group of refugee when United States of America's (USA) started war against terror. About 3.5 million refugees got shelter in Pakistan during the crises of 1980's.

Pakistan along with Turkey facilitates the afghan refugees. As per 2005 census, about 35 % of Afghan refugees got sheltered in Pakistan since 1980. Whereas in 2008 about 2 million Afghan refugees registered in Pakistan. Most of the afghan refugee were living in the camps managed by the UNCHR in Pakistan. Thousands of afghan refugees still living in the urban localities of the Pakistan without any prior registration. An approximate 8 million Afghan refugees dislocated from their region to Pakistan in 2008 (Kronenfeld, 2008).

Among reallocated afghan refugees, most of the afghan got shelter in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province of Pakistan which was formally known as North West Frontier Province (NWFP). According to Oberoi in 2007, approximately 75 thousands afghan refugees entered into various parts of Pakistan every year and the movement across Pak-Afghan border supposed a routine issue before the war of terror. Situational analysis suggested that the Pakistan supported the Afghan refugee because of the three factors: the global assistance to afghan refugees during the cold war which resulted the reduction and disintegration of USSR from Afghanistan. The second factor was the recession in the economy of Pakistan during 90's. Thirdly factor constitutes change in geopolitical sense after 9/11, Pakistan to be supposed as alliance of USA and to enhance the scale of terrorist attack. Also financial and military assistance and appreciation from the international community for Pakistan were also in the agenda of sheltering Afghan refugee in Pakistan. A part of all this the Pakistani nation suffered a lot form drug and Kalashnikov culture due to this afghan refugee movement toward Pakistan (Oberoi, 2007).

Mghir and Raskin in 1999 studied the psychological impact of Afghanistan's war. The study considered two Afghan refugees groups i.e. refugee with Tajik parents and refugee with Pashtun parents. The two groups of refugees were analyzed using post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and depression psychological scales. The refugees with Tajik Parents found significantly less dispersed and stress disorder than refugees with Pashtun parents. Also, there found a significant difference between the two groups from socio-economic and cultural prospective. The parents of Pashtun refugees experience more war time over in

Afghanistan than Tajik refugees and observed more traumatic events.

Naseh et al. in 2018 studied the aspect of afghan refugees returned from Iran. This included access of basic health and daily life facilities consisting of covered areas for living, access and use of personal latrine, kitchen, electricity and clean piped water for drinking. The study reviewed the basic indicators and needs of returnee refugees from Iran. The study showed that maintaining of living standard for the returnee afghan refugee was not less than a challenge. The shelter was the one of the most important needs and basic for reintegration of the returnee.

Murthy and Lakshminarayana in 2006 determined that mental health of the civil population of the country is one of the most significant factors during war. The study showed that incidence rate and prevalence of the mental disorder is increasing rapidly in the general population and effecting significantly effecting the men as compared to women. The incidence rate of mental health disorder found associated with the availability of Trauma and cooperation of the society.

Sim et al., (2018) conducted a cross sectional study to model the exposure toward war and its impact on parental and children mental health for the refugees of Syria in Lebanon. The study developed and empirically verified relationship with the help of structural equation modeling (SEM) between the post war effect and stress due to displacement from their country with attitude and behavior and mental health disorder of 291 refugee mothers in 2017 in Lebanon. The study defined a positive relationship between post trauma stress and psychological distress of mother with the exposure toward war. Whereas the child psychological issues found inversely related with the post trauma stress. The study suggested that post war trauma effects adversely mother and child mental health order and tend to enhance the negative parenting behavior. Ulum and Kara in 2016 studied the effects of war on the student refugee academic achievement in Syria. The study considered the war victim students of high and secondary school in Adana city of Turkey and collected the data by semi-structured interview in their mother tongue. The study analyzed the pre and post Syria's war grades of the students and concluded that war effects decreased the grades of students.

The objective of this paper is to determine the impact of the current situation of Afghanistan i.e. taking Taliban over the civil government in Afghanistan on the refugees settled in various regions of Peshawar, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). The paper organized as the literature followed by the introduction. The next section consist of research methodology followed by analysis and conclusion.

Research Methodology

To study the impact of the current situation of Afghanistan on refugees settled in KP, all refugees residing in various regions of District Peshawar determined as the sampled population. The sample was selected from two different localities of Peshawar i.e. from Hayatabad and city. In these two locations, afghan refugees are residing more in number with their families. A total of 280 samples

of afghan refugees’ families selected using referral sampling. The referral sample is selected as the afghan refuses are settled in the dominated sector or areas of Hayatabad and city. The data was collected through structure questionnaire and analyzed through descriptive statistics using statistical procedures for social sciences (SPSS) version 23.

Statistical Analysis and Discussion

As this the descriptive cross sectional research study, therefore only descriptive statistics methods are used to determine the effects of the Afghan refugee settled in two different regions of district Peshawar, KP. To describe the responses of the refugees frequencies, percentages and charts being used. The following table describes the responses of the refugees.

Table: Frequency, percentage distribution of Refugee Responses

Responses	Categories	Frequencies	Percentages
Settled Area	Hayatabad	162	57.9
	City	118	42.1
Gender	Male	180	64.3
	Female	100	35.7
Scared by current Afghan Situation	No	104	37.1
	Yes	176	62.9
Depressed	No	109	38.9
	Yes	171	61.1
Revisit Afghanistan	Yes	112	40.0
	No	168	60.0
Favor of Taliban Government	No	186	66.4
	Yes	94	33.6
Is US responsible for this situation	No	84	30.0
	Yes	196	70.0
Happy with Taliban Government	No	213	76.1
	Yes	67	23.9

The above table defines the descriptive statistics of the responses of afghan refugees settled in two different localities of district Peshawar. The table depicts that out of 280 afghan refugees settled in Peshawar, 162 with percentage of 57.9 settled in Hayatabad while 118 afghan refugees are currently residing in in city areas of Peshawar with the percentage of 42.1. Also, in afghan refugees, the data regarding the impact of the current situation in Afghanistan was obtained form 180 male afghan refugees and 100 female afghan refugees with the percentage of 64.3 and 35.7 respectively. The

settled afghan refugees are found scared from the current situation of the Afghanistan. Among refugees, 61.1percent of afghan i.e. (161 afghan refugees) responded that they are scared about the current situation of Afghanistan whereas 38.9 percent of afghan refugees found not scared with the current Afghanistan scenario. Similarly, the table reveled that most of the afghan refugees residing in district Peshawar are depressed from the current situation of Afghanistan. About 171 i.e. 61.1% of afghan refugee residing in Peshawar are depressed with the current situation of Afghanistan

while 109 afghan refugees i.e. 38.9 percent responded no means they are not depressed from the current situation of Afghanistan. Upon asking from the refugees that will they revisit the Afghanistan after the formal formation of government. Out of 280 afghan refugee, 168 responded that they will not revisit the Afghanistan having a percentage of 60 while 40% of the refugees i.e. 112 responded that they will revisit the Afghanistan after the formation of government. 186 afghan refugees with a percentage of 66.4 are found with not in favor of Taliban government in Afghanistan while 94 out of 280 afghan refugees observed in favor with a percentage of 33.6 are in favor of Taliban government in Afghanistan. To determine that who is the responsible of current Afghanistan situation, the 196 refugees expressed that United State of America (USA) is the responsible for all this in Afghanistan while 84 afghan refugees i.e. 30% did not consider USA responsible for all this in Afghanistan. The afghan refugees settled in Peshawar also respond about their happiness with Taliban government. Approximately 76.1% of the afghan refugees responded that they will not happy with the Taliban government in Afghanistan whereas 23.9 percent of the afghan refugees supposed to be happy with the Taliban government.

Conclusion

To study the effect of current Afghanistan situation on afghan refugees settled in district Peshawar, KP, a sample of 280 afghan refugees were selected on referral basis. The sample of afghan refugees was selected from two different settled localities of district Peshawar i.e. 162 refugees from Hayatabad while 118 afghan from city areas of Peshawar. Also, in afghan refugees, there was 180 male afghan refugees and 100 female afghan refugees in which 61.1percent of afghan i.e. (161 afghan refugees) found scared from the current situation of Afghanistan whereas 38.9 percent of afghan refugees found not scared with the current scenario. Also 171 i.e. 61.1% of afghan refugee residing in Peshawar are depressed while 109 afghan refugees i.e. 38.9 percent found not depressed. Most of the afghan refugees found with the opinion of not visit to Afghanistan after the formal formation of government. Also, more of are the respondents are not in favor of Taliban government in Afghanistan and supposed USA responsible for all this in

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