



Satisfaction Level and Mental Status among the Rohingya Refugees in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh

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Abstract

In Cox's bazar, more over a million Rohingya refugees are currently residing in extremely precarious living conditions. They are all struggling to meet their bare necessities. This survey was carried out to better understand the current situation of Rohingyas, including their level of contentment and mental health. This study also looked at whether the participants wanted to return to their country of origin, their main problems, and how happy they were with the distribution of NGO/INGOs. This study will assist local, national, and international players in managing Rohingya refugees in Cox Bazar, Bangladesh, according to their requirements and in taking the necessary actions to return them to their homes.

Keywords: Mental Status; Satisfaction Level; Rohingya Refugees

Introduction

Muslims who live in Myanmar's Rakhaine state are known as Rohingyas [1]. Since 1978 Sultana N, et al. [2], they have endured years of hunger and neglect. Most recently, in 2017 more than 950,000 people fled from Myanmar [4] and sought safety in Bangladesh's refugee camps [3-5]. According to the United Nations, Myanmar's government is deporting Rohingya citizens from their country [6]. Also, according to Amnesty International, the Rohingya are denied access to their own country [7].

The Rohingya refugees are being housed in bamboo and mud structures with poor ventilation and direct solar exposure [8]. The majority of refugees are currently residing in crowded Cox's Bazaar regions [4]. The majority of people without access to bathrooms and showers are women. They experience conflict when gathering livelihoods and feel insecure mostly when using the restroom or taking a bath [8,9]. Conflicting and being forced to move are key factors in

their mental illness [10]. The major refugee camps in Cox's bazar are now home to Rohingya refugees as a result of the inflow [2]. Zaman KT, et al. [5,8]. It is crucial to comprehend the current situation of the refugees and the stance of the Government of Bangladesh and international communities because they are entirely dependent on UN agencies for their livelihoods [11]. This study, which focuses on the background information provided, aims to comprehend the Rohingya refugees' current situation in Bangladeshi refugee camps.

Methods

Study Design and Participant Selection

A cross-sectional study was conducted to assess the satisfaction level and mental status of Rohingya people in refugee camps of Cox's Bazar between November and December, 2022. There were 10 volunteers who were trained used to take the data collection. They collected all data from 34 refugee camps. The inclusion criterion was that the all

ages of people except child during the participation period. In Bangladesh, anyone under the age of 21 is considered a child. The selection of the participant was door to door.

Sample Size Detection

The infinite population formula was used to calculate sample size $[S = (Z)^2 \times P \times (1-P) \div (M)^2]$. A 95% confidence level was used to calculate the Z-value (1.96). The population proportion (P) and margin of error (M) were calculated at the 50% (0.50) and 5% (0.05) levels, respectively. We collected 385 data for this study.

Study Tools and Data Collection

For convenience, the questionnaire was prepared in two versions (English and Bengali). For readability and clarity, the questionnaire was pilot tested. For reliability, it was pilot tested for face validity before being entered into a spread sheet, cleaned, principal component analyzed, and revised for reliability. The survey was carried out with the assistance of 10 trained interviewers. After explaining the survey's purpose and design, the interviewers approached the respondents and conducted a face-to-face interview to

complete the questionnaire. The first part of the questionnaire was used to collect demographic information, and the second part was used to evaluate satisfaction and mental status of the representatives. To minimize the possibility of choosing the desired and correct answer by chance, three answering options were provided. The answering options were a) yes, b) no, whereas in which problem you face the options were a) food, b) cloth, c) education d) residence and e) treatment. The mean and standard deviation of the ages are presented within the dataset. Furthermore, for ease of interpretation, frequencies were converted into percentages. The participants' family attestation identity cards photocopies are kept for validation.

Statistical Analysis

Before importing to the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) software (version 22.0), all data were entered on a master Microsoft Excel spread sheet. To assess the differences in mean between demographic variables, a Kruskal Wallis test was used. A p-value of less than 0.05 was considered significant.

Results

Variable	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Age (Years)		
Mean \pm SD	32.28 \pm 11.25	
Median (Min-Max)	28 (20-59)	
Age Category		
20-29	209	54.3
30-39	116	30.1
40-49	21	5.5
50-59	39	10.1
60-69	0	0
Sex		
Male	231	60
Female	154	40
Marital Status		
Married	346	89.9
Unmarried	20	5.2
Divorced	19	4.9
Widow	0	0
Educational Qualification		
Illiterate	231	60
<Class 5	116	30.1
Class 5-10	38	9.9

Table 1: Demographic Information of the Participants.

In this data set we see most of the rohingya people are illiterate. But now they are concern about the education.

That is why they send their children to the nearest learning center for being educated.

		Do you want to go back to your home country?		P value (Kruskal Wallis Test)
		Yes (%)	No (%)	
Coming from Myanmar to Bangladesh, are you well?	Yes	112 (29.09)	3 (0.78)	0.449
	No	266 (69.09)	4 (1.04)	
Are you satisfied with the ration you receive every month from WFP	Yes	259 (67.27)	5 (1.30)	0.87
	No	119 (30.91)	2 (0.52)	
Are you satisfied with the monthly support given to you by NGO/INGO?	Yes	262 (68.05)	6 (1.56)	0.35
	No	116 (30.13)	1 (0.26)	
Which thing you are suffering more here?	Food	0 (0)	0 (0)	0.013
	Cloth	0 (0)	0 (0)	
	Education	0 (0)	0 (0)	
	Residence	305 (79.22)	3 (0.78)	
	Treatment	73 (18.96)	4 (1.04)	
How do you feel about the fact that you are currently a refugee?	Normal	37 (9.61)	1 (0.26)	0.125
	Depressed	154 (40)	0 (0)	
	Trying to adjust myself	187 (48.57)	6 (1.56)	
How much relatives are died in Myanmar during Influx?	No death	90 (23.38)	1 (0.26)	0.453
	<5 death	258 (67.01)	5 (1.30)	
	Death 5-10 person	28 (7.27)	1 (0.26)	
	>10 person	2 (0.52)	0 (0)	

Table 2: Crosstabs and Kruskal Wallis Test Results among the Participants' Answers.

In the above data set we see almost all the rohingya people are willing to go back to their home country. They do not want to lead their life in a restricted area as a refugee. More than half (69.09%) people are said they are not good in this place. They were very much happy in past when they were in Myanmar. At most one third (30.91%) rohingya people are happy to get ration from WFP. They said the amount WFP give them are not enough for them. 30.13% rohingya people are not satisfied that they get support from NGO/INGO donated by UN Bodies. 79.22% people are suffering from residence problem. They said they have to share other family members a small room for living. There are living in very congested areas. 18.96% people said they do not get higher medical treatment when it is needed. Even if there is need any major operation they sometimes get delay/ do not get this service properly. 48.56% people are now trying adjust this environment. 74.8% people lost their relatives in Myanmar during conflict. As a result, now almost half of the people are suffering in different mental problems. P values of these criteria are more than 0.05. That is why

there is no significant difference remain in these points. Only the answer of the question about their sufferings and whether they want to go back to their home country or not has a significant differences among the options because in this section the P value is less than 0.05 (0.013).

Discussion

The majority of Rohingya people now are living in Burma and are struggling greatly. They are primarily harmed by well-built homes. Those who receive contemporary therapy suffer. Even if the WFP and other NGO/INGO are doing their best to assist them, some are dissatisfied since they require more assistance than they are receiving.

As a result of the abrupt movement of a sizable number of forcibly displaced Rohingya refugees (i.e., 700,000 to more than 950,000) from Myanmar, Rohingya refugees have begun to live in the southern part of Bangladesh, specifically the Upazila of Cox's Bazar Sadar, Ukhia, and Teknaf of

the district of Cox's Bazar [5,11]. The Rohingya refugees are housed in improvised settlements that are extremely crowded as a result of cutting natural forest area, plantation land, and mountainous terrain to prevent flooding [10]. In addition, because they are made of materials like plastic sheets, tarpaulin, mud, and bamboos, the temporary shelters are flimsily built, extremely hot, and susceptible to natural disasters that frequently strike coastal areas [8]. Their agony in these tiny shelters is awful as a result. There are five, six, or even eight or nine people living in a room. These community people are very much suffering from accommodation crisis. Sometimes it is difficult to get proper treatment if there is need any major operation or serious disease. They are now trying to adjust themselves in this situation. Some people are unhappy about that they are getting from UN Agencies because the amount they get is very limited. They have a high birth rate. Because of this, each person's living situation is more limited every year after. Furthermore, the majority of camps lack access to electricity, and all physical structures including roads, houses, and bridges are temporary constructions. Yet, there have been significant changes in the infrastructure that support the provision of lodging options, access to transportation, and communication [12].

Conclusion

Several Rohingya refugees are currently residing in the Vasan Char and Cox's bazar neighborhoods. They are currently attempting to acclimate to life as a refugee. They are learning how to live in a world with limited access to food, housing, and freedom of movement. Nearly all Rohingya refugees wish to return to Myanmar, where they first fled. Their fate has not changed in five years. They don't have a proper place to live or receive sufficient care, and they are coping with emotional trauma here. They reside in an unclean atmosphere. That is why, despite UN agencies' best efforts, their nutritional and medical conditions are not getting any better.

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