

Rohingya Crisis in Bangladesh: History, Consequences and Solution

Abstract

The Rohingya refugee crisis is a continuous disrupting factor in bilateral relations between Myanmar and Bangladesh since the late 1970s. The crisis is seen as composed of various clusters of past and present human rights violations in Myanmar which has caused their forced migration to neighboring countries like Bangladesh contributing to security and socio-economic problems. Bangladesh is the most vulnerable country facing Rohingya refugee crisis although it successfully resisted the eviction and in 1978 and 1992 through successful repatriation. But, recently, being attacked by Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA), a Rohingya extremist group, Myanmar government and its Buddhist supporters started to persecute the race. As a result, estimated 603,000 refugees fled Rakhine, Myanmar for Bangladesh in 2017 and the United Nations called the exodus as “textbook example” of ethnic cleansing. Analysing secondary sources and using qualitative method, this paper discovers the historical development of Rohingya, factors and effects of crisis on Bangladesh. This paper explores the local and international attempts to face the challenge and suggests other solution to solve the crisis. In the light of social work, the study also focuses on the responsibilities and duties of social workers for increasing social functioning through psycho-social development of Rohingyas.

Introduction

Rohingyas are a Muslim minority in Myanmar regarded by many Myanmar Buddhists as illegal migrants from Bangladesh (**The Independent, 31 January 2017**). The Rohingyas have lived in Myanmar for generations and the Bangladesh government has called for Myanmar to take back the refugees. Since the 1970s Rohingya refugees have been coming to Bangladesh from Myanmar. In 1978 and 1991 Bangladesh was faced with influx of Rohingya refugees from Myanmar. In 1978 about 200,000 refugees crossed into Bangladesh to flee being victim of persecution by the Myanmar army in the Arakan region. Their stay in Bangladesh at that time was short lived as the problem was resolved through diplomatic initiatives. In the 1990s, more than 250,000 resided in refugee camps in Bangladesh. In the early 2000s, all but 20,000 of them were repatriated to Myanmar, some against their will (**Thompson, 2005**). Most of the refugees are located along the Teknaf-Cox's Bazar highway that is parallel to the Naf River, which is the border between Bangladesh and Myanmar.

The Rohingya have faced discrimination, persecution, torture, rape and arson under the Myanmar junta governments and its Buddhist extremists for many decades. Effectively denied citizenship under the 1982 Citizenship Law, they are one of the largest stateless populations in the world. The Rohingya Muslims have a “highly complex patchwork of ethnicities” tracing their ancestry to Arab, Moors, Pathans, Moghuls, Bengalis and Indo-Mongoloid peoples. They consider themselves a distinct group of Muslims with a language and a cultural identity endemic to their community. While often referring to themselves as “Rakhine Muslims” the name Rohingya spread widely after Burma’s independence in 1948. Figures differ vastly as to their population in Myanmar with the UNHCR citing 800,000 while Arakan Rohingya National Organisation (ARNO) claim a presence of 2 million. **(Jaffer, 2017)**. 1948 Government of Myanmar had recognized Rohingya as citizen of state, but 1982 the military government denied their citizenship. The experience of having refugees is not pleasant for any society. The case of Rohingya refugees is no exception. The place where they have taken shelters after arrival is one of the poverty prone area of Bangladesh. Because of the mountainous location and lack of availability of cultivable land, most of the people depend on day labour **(Chakraborty, 1984, P-13)**. This creates pressures on job market and simultaneously makes the ecosystem vulnerable. **(Ahamed, 2010)**. Bangladesh is facing many problems and is now a hard nut to crack almost one million Rohingya.

Objectives of the Paper

Through analysing secondary data sources like books, journals, newspaper and websites the paper mainly aims to make an overview of Rohingya refugee crisis in Bangladesh. Specific objectives of the seminar paper are—

- a) To explore the evolution of Rohingya crisis in Myanmar and influx in Bangladesh.
- b) To understand the present concerning issues and needs of Rohingyas staying at Bangladesh.
- c) To find out the factors of repeating persecution and evacuation of Rohingyas in Myanmar.
- d) To recommend solution strategy through analysing the measures already have taken.
- e) To identify the role and responsibilities of social worker in psycho-social development and repatriation process.

The Birth of Rohingya Refugees

The term Roang / Rohang / Roshang, the old name of Arakan, is of much antiquity. It is probably the corruption of Arabic term Raham (blessing, mercy) meaning the land of God's blessing **(Yunus, 1994, P-4)**. In the work of Arab geographer Rashiduddin (1310 AD) it appears as Rahan or Raham. The Turkish navigator belonging to the middle of 16th century wrote the name of Arakan as Rakan.

The Rohingya are an ethnic minority in Myanmar, which originates from the Indian sub-continent. For several centuries they have lived predominantly in Myanmar's western state of Rakhine - also known as Arakan. They are predominately Muslim.

Over 20,000 Rohingya moved from Myanmar into Bangladesh, then British- controlled Bengal, after Japanese forces invaded Burma in 1942 during the Second World War. Thousands more crossed over following Burma's independence in 1948 when tensions grew between the Burmese government and Rohingya. Shortly after Myanmar's independence from the British in 1948, the government viewed the migration that took place during the British rule as illegal refugee citizenship to the majority Rohingyas. Soon after union citizenship Act was passed, defining which ethnicities could gain citizenship, the Rohingya were included. The Act, however, allowed those families had lived in Myanmar for at least two generations to apply for identity card. Again in 1982, they were not included in the citizenship law and thus become stateless and continue to suffer prosecution including forced labor, confiscation of property, rape and violence. **(Current Affairs, January 2018, P-44)** The Rohingya people witnessed a painful transformation of their status from *statelessness* to Refugees hood in modern times. As the idea of refugees was not prevent earlier, the Rohingya simply took shelter in different place in Bangladesh. A Systematic oppression and annihilation began through ethnic cleansing of the Rohingya community.

Historical Background of Rohingya

Myanmar, also called Burma, located in the western portion of Southeast Asia. In 1989 the country's official English name, which it had held since 1885, was changed from the Union of Burma to the Republic Union of Myanmar; in the Burmese language the country has been known as *Myanma* (or, more precisely, *Mranma Prañ*) since the 13th century. The English name of the city that served as the country's capital from 1948 to 2006, Rangoon, also was dropped in 1989 in favour of the common Burmese name, Yangon. *Nay Pyi Taw* was proclaimed the capital of Myanmar in 2006. In 2016 the country starts journey for civilian government after a long history of military dictatorship and communist regime for more than 50 years.

With the areas of 676,578 square kilometres it has 52.89 million people. About 60% of the country's populations are non-Burmans mostly in-habiting in the states/provinces. They are Shan, Chin, Kachin, Karen, Kayah, Mon, Pa-o, Palaung, Padaung, Naga, Lahu, Akha, Wa, Rohingya, Rakhine and many other indigenous races. It is a Least Developed Country (LDC) and is the poorest country in South-East Asia. It ranks 148 out of 187 countries in the UNDP Human Development Index, and ranks at the bottom or near the bottom of many social, economic and environmental indexes compiled either regionally or globally **(UNDP Myanmar Annual Report, 2016, P-9)**. But for its rich cultures and

natural attractions, Myanmar is called *Golden Land* to the travellers. There are numerous pagodas, temples, beauty spots, archaeological sites, snow-peaked mountains, deep forests with abundant flora and fauna, rivers and natural lakes, unspoilt beaches and archipelagos. 135 national races with their colourful costumes and customs, traditional arts and crafts all make up Myanmar one of the most fascinating destinations in Asia. *Aung San Suu Kyi*, a politician, present State Councillor of Myanmar, achieved Nobel Peace Prize in 1993.

Arakan, a geographically isolated area in western Myanmar, a mountain range separating it from central Burma, had been an independent kingdom until 1784. It is named by the present regime as the Rakhine state. Two major ethnic races, the Rohingya (Muslims) and the Rakhine (Buddhists) inhabit Arakan. The unofficial total population of Arakan is more than 5 million including about 1.5 million Rohingyas. They are a people with a distinct culture and civilization of their own (Ullah, 2016). They trace their ancestry to Arabs, Moors, Pathans, Moguls, Bengali and some Indo-Mongoloid people.

The Arab traders have been in contact with Arakan since the third century and they had introduced Islam to Arakan around 788 CE. During that time a dynasty, Chandra was ruling the kingdom of Arakan. The Arab merchants carried out missionary activities by spreading Islam side by side with their trade. In the process, a large number of people were converted to Islam. Many of the Arab traders married to local women and settled there permanently. Due to conversion, inter-marriage and migration, the Muslim population grew to large numbers during the subsequent centuries. These Muslims came to be known as Rohingyas, a term derived from the Arabic term "*Raham*" (God blessing). Until the 15th century, Arakan was ruled by a non-Muslim king, *Narameikhala*, who himself embraced Islam in 1404 and adopted the Muslim name of *Solaiman Shah*. After the death of last Muslim king *Solaiman Shah* 11 Buddhists had arrived in the region from Tibet and Mongolia. By the middle of the 10th century, the Mongolian race Barman's mostly Buddhists had established their power in Burma. Besides, there had been three major recorded invasions on Arakan. First was by *Anawrahta* in 1044 A.D. and the second invasion was by *Min Khaung Yaza's* invasion in 1406 and the third major invasion was by *Budapawa* in 1784 (Siddiqui, 2013).

In 1824, the British East India Company invaded Burma and through the Anglo-Burma war Arakan came under the sway of the British. The whole of Burma including Arakan was brought under the Indian system of administration. During the colonial rule the British were not interested in the national integration of diverse communities in Burma. Under national quota, Rohingya representatives were elected during colonial administration from North Arakan as Burmese nationals.

After the liberation of Myanmar in 1948, Citizenship law recognizes citizens those whose families had settled in the country before independence. Prime Minister *U Nu*

had declared Buddhism as the state religion of the country in 1958. Rohingyas were considered as *resident foreigners* in 1960. General *Ne Win* put only 135 groups on a short list, and then was approved by his BSPP regime's constitution of 1974. The 1982 Burma Citizenship Law divided citizens by three different categories: citizens, associate citizens, and naturalized citizens. As per the law stated in section 3, the Rohingyas are not considered to be a national ethnic group and therefore and they are not qualified to obtain full citizenship.

Rohingyas were not subjected as full citizenship to any laws such as the Foreigner Act (Indian Act III, 1846), the Registration of Foreigners Act (Burma Act VII, 1940) and the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1948. Dr. Habib Siddiqui identifies 20 major armed operations of intimidation against the Rohingya people, orchestrated by the Burmese government since 1948. In 1977 a campaign was launched by the central government to scrutinize individually the population in the State, to designate citizens and foreigners in accordance with the law. This was also meant to take actions against foreigners who have infiltrated the country illegally. In a statement of Burmese authorities it is found that in *Buthidaung* township alone 108,431 persons were interrogated, 643 prosecuted, 33,596 persons absconded and 6,429 houses abandoned in 1978 (Bahar, 2016). Bangladesh has been providing shelter to the Rohingyas since 1978 when the first batch of refugees arrived in Teknaf (among other countries that accepted them are India, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand).

In 1991 Bangladesh experienced another influx of Rohingya refugees in the Teknaf, Ramu, Ukhia and Cox's Bazar region. About 250,000 refugees crossed the *Naf River* and sought asylum in Bangladesh. There was another mass exodus in 1992. Many of them, however, returned after an agreement between the governments of Bangladesh and Myanmar, but a significant number of them stayed back, to be joined by another large group after a crackdown in 2016. Overall, about a million Rohingyas-730,654 of them registered by the Department of Immigration and Passports now live in Bangladesh (Daily Star, 1 January, 2018).

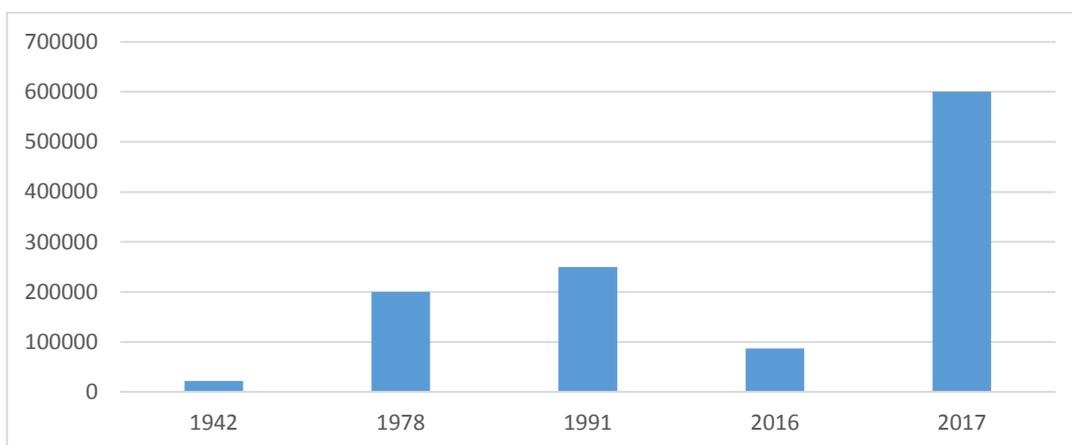


Fig. Major Influxes of Rohingyas to Bangladesh (1942- Present)

According to United Nations, up to 600,000 Rohingyas have fled Myanmar for Bangladesh since the Myanmar army launched a crackdown on the ethnic minority group on August 25, 2017. The UN described the situation of the Myanmar army's aggression against the Rohingya as *ethnic cleansing*¹. So, maximum of them are leading miserable lives now at different nearest countries.

Present Situation of Rohingya People in Bangladesh

There are more 300,000 Rohingyas living in Bangladesh who fled in earlier wave violence from the Burmese government over the last three decades. Despite the enormous costs and risks associated with hosting such a large refugee population, Bangladesh did so with relative patience and compassion so far, with help from other countries, international aid agencies, and local NGOs. There are nearly a dozen refugee camps and settlements in Cox's Bazar housing the refugees at this moment. Add to that the island *Thengar Char*² in Noakhali that Bangladesh plans to turn into a temporary settlement for 100,000 refugees. The USD 280 million project, which would be complete by 2019, came under criticism from aid workers who raised objection to its location, a remote, flood-prone island that they say is “all but uninhabitable” because of the nature of its formation (**The Daily Star, 1st January, 2018**). The conditions of the existing camps have been reported to be dire. (**Raisa Chowdhury, reliefweb.int, 4 October 2017**). As of 2 December, the Bangladeshi Immigration and Passports Department has registered 730,654 people through biometric registration. Maximum of them are not interested to be registered since they don't want to return their native land.

2017 ROHINGYA REFUGEE CRISIS	
Conflict broke out on	Aug 25
People killed in first month	6,700
Children killed in first month	730
Post-Aug 25 arrivals in Bangladesh	655,000
Total refugees in Bangladesh	1 million (approx.)
Total refugees registered as of Dec 2	730,654
Camps/settlements	11
Repatriation deal signed on	Nov 23
Refugees willing to return if situation improves	78%
Refugees willing to return unconditionally	6%
Refugees not willing to return	16%

Source: *The Daily Star*

¹ According to United Nations Security Council Resolution 780, **ethnic cleansing** is a purposeful policy designed by one ethnic or religious group to remove by violent and terror-inspiring means the civilian population of another ethnic or religious group from certain geographic areas.

² **Thengar Char** is an island having areas of 300 square kilometres, also known as *Jalier Char*, located in the adjacent island of Char Piya have near Noyakhali, 37 miles from the coast of Bay of Bengal.

i. Social Situation:

Rohingya people are suffering from four types of need WASH, health, nutrition and food security and shelter (**UNICEF Bangladesh Humanitarian Situation report No. 13, November 2017**). Wash supply lacks of soaps, buckets and bathing facilities. Only one latrine is available for 100 people in average. They are vulnerable, having fled conflict and experienced severe trauma, diarrhoea and cholera. An estimated 564,000 people are in urgent need of nutrition services and among them, 16,956 children under 59 months need treatment for Severe Acute Malnutrition. The security situation has remained stable although marked by ongoing minor crime, drug-related criminality and violence. According to ISCG's rapid needs assessment, 58% of new arrivals are children and 60% are women including a high number of pregnant (3%) and lactating women (7%) (**ISCG Situation Report: Rohingya Refugee Crisis, Cox's Bazar, 3 December 2017**).

ii. Economic Condition

Registered refugees living in camps have had limited livelihood opportunities due to no formal right to work and restriction of movement which limits them from seeking work outside the camps. Unregistered refugees have been much more economically active than registered refugees, due to fact that they could not receive assistance, pushing them to engage in livelihood activities for survival (**ACAPS NPM hubs, Thematic Report, December 2017**). According to *ISCG Report* More than 394,000 girls and boys still lack access to safe and protective learning environment. Many Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh facing diminished income are supplementing their needs with work in the camps. Some Rohingyas are working as hawcker, shopkeeper and small businessmen. (**Voice of America, Online Edition, 25 December 2017**). So, it can be said they are trying to be financially self-reliant but the scope of their job is limited.

iii. Political Situation

Rohingya people don't have citizenship. So they are devoid of all types of state facilities of Myanmar. They don't have right to vote and no participation in national policy making of Myanmar government. So there is no policy in favour of them by the Myanmar government. Technically the Myanmar government keep them aside from all state affairs and even they are unrecognized in Myanmar.

iv. Physical and Health Situation:

They have used most their savings on transportation and constructing a shelter, often out of no more than bamboo and thin plastic. They are now reliant on humanitarian assistance for food, and other life-saving needs. Most of the rohingya people are physically exhausted and suffering from various types of diseases. Children and old age people are suffering more. Some people with HIV virus are unidentified. Sanitation and

other health facilities are not sufficient for them now. Communicable disease risks remain high due to crowded living conditions, inadequate water and sanitation (*WASH*) facilities and low vaccination coverage. To develop the solution, 90,797 children reached with psychosocial support. Around 53 teachers and staff of local partners received training on inter-personal communication and key messages. A total of 759 *Majhis*³ (Rohingya community leaders) and Imams participated in advocacy meetings from *Kutupalong, Balukhali, Shamlapur and Leda* camps where discussions on hygiene promotion, nutrition, child protection were held. *Majhis* and Imams will disseminate the key messages to communities in respective blocks and on Friday prayers. Around 555 people were reached through community dialogues on topics related to hygiene promotion, child protection and nutrition.

Location	Population before 25 Aug	Post-25 Aug Influx	Total Refugee Population
Makeshift Settlement / Refugee Camps			
Kutupalong-Balukhali Expansion ¹	99,705	342,751	442,456
Kutupalong RC	13,901	11,842	25,743
Leda MS	14,240	10,131	24,371
Nayapara RC	19,230	15,327	34,557
Shamlapur	8,433	18,516	26,949
New Spontaneous Settlements			
Hakimpara	140	55,158	55,298
Thangkhali	100	29,945	30,045
Unchirang	-	30,384	30,384
Jamtoli	72	33,474	33,546
Moynarghona	50	21,432	21,482
Chakmarkul	-	10,500	10,500
Host Community			
Cox's Bazar Sadar	12,485	1,683	14,168
Ramu	1,600	830	2,430
Teknaf	34,437	34,075	68,512
Ukhia	8,125	9,543	17,668
TOTAL Rohingya	212,518	625,591	838,109

Source: ISCG Situation Report: Rohingya Refugee Crisis

v. Psychological Condition :

Mentally they are frustrated. Because they are rooted out from their own habitation and living far from it. They also don't know when and how they will return to their own land and live a happy life. Even they have no idea about their future that what will happen tomorrow where will they live rest of their life.

Factors of Rohingya Crisis

There are factors behind repetition of the Rohingya refugee crisis. The factors are described here in brief.

i. Statelessness of Rohingya

In 1977, when the army launched a national drive to register citizens, the Rohingya were considered illegal. More than 200,000 Rohingya fled to Bangladesh at the time because of further atrocities. Authorities pointed to their flight as purported evidence of

³ *Majhi* are the community leaders of blocks in the makeshift Rohingya camps.

their illegal status. The Citizenship Act of Myanmar, enacted in 1982, formally denied the group citizenship rights.

Today, the Rohingya are the single largest “stateless” community in the world. Their “statelessness” or lack of citizenship increases their vulnerability because they are not entitled to any legal protection from the government. Without citizenship, they are deprived of basic rights such as access to health services, education and employment. The illiteracy rate among the Rohingya, for example, is a staggering 80 percent.

ii. Geo-Politics

The second factor which made the routing of the Rohingya Muslims possible was the unequivocal support from China, Russia and India, which emboldened Myanmar’s generals and sheltered Myanmar’s international position. China is Myanmar’s most important political, security and economic partner. Beijing’s support is essential if Myanmar’s many intractable conflicts are to be resolved, as *peace-building* (with all but the Rohingyas) is a priority of *Aung San Suu Kyi*’s government.

Close observers of Myanmar’s domestic and international developments cautioned against overstated enthusiasm over Myanmar’s turnaround in its alliances. In fact, Myanmar never quite turned its back on Beijing. Although India has accepted a few thousand Rohingyas in the past and China has committed to covering part of the costs Bangladesh is incurring in the current crisis, both New Delhi and Beijing have firmly embraced the official narrative of Myanmar’s government. Likewise, Russia is also keen on sheltering Myanmar from any international sanctions. What left many of *Aung San Suu Kyi*’s long-time supporters dismayed was the ease with which, facing the prospect of censure by the UN, she warned off critics, indicating that she would turn to Russia and China’s veto power, if needed.

iii. Internal Terrorism

In 1950, some Rohingya staged a rebellion against the policies of the Myanmar government. They demanded citizenship; they also asked for the state that had been promised them. Ultimately the army crushed the resistance movement. Much like today’s terrorists, the rebels at the time were called *Mujahid* or engaged in *struggle* or *jihad*. Calling them foreigners, the army killed, tortured and raped. They closed Rohingya social and political organizations. They also transferred private Rohingya businesses to the government, debilitating the group financially. Further, the Rohingya suffered forced labor, arbitrary detention and physical assaults. In 1991 and 1992, more than 250,000 attempted to escape to Bangladesh.

iv. Religion

Rohingyas are a people with distinct culture and civilization of their own. They trace their ancestry to Arabs, Moors, Pathans, Moghuls, Bengalis and some Indo-Mongoloid people. Early Muslim settlements in Arakan date back to 7th century AD. Burma is a home to numerous ethnic groups and about 60% of the area is inhabited by nearly 140 ethnic races and Rohingya is one of them. Burma has a population of about 50 million

of which nearly 8 million are Muslims. Of the Muslim population about 3.5 million (both at home and at the places of refugee) are Rohingyas of Arakan. The Rohingyas are a majority community in Arakan.

v. Cultural identity

Rohingyas are staunch followers of Islam. Most of the elderly Rohingya grow beards and the women wear hijab. All Rohingya houses are surrounded by high bamboo walls. There are mosques and Madrassahs (religious schools) in every quarter and village. The men pray in congregation, whereas the female pray at home. There is still in existence of a social bond in every village called *Samaj*. All social welfare activities like *Adhahi* meat distribution, helping the poor, widows, orphans and needy, marriage and funereal functions are done collectingly by the *Samaj*.

vi. Lack of Education among Rohingya

Before 1962 military take over Rohingya Muslims did not lag behind their Buddhist sister community .Due to poverty, serious discrimination and continued persecution against them, the number of Rohingya students have declined much. To get admission in colleges and universities for higher studies is a problematic matter for the Rohingyas. Severe restrictions have been imposed on their pursuing professional courses for citizenship question. There are a number of voluntary religious schools educating a good percentage of Rohingya students. However, because of various restrictions, lack of funds and facilities these institutions are unable to modernize the teaching methods thus failing to produce efficient students or manpower for the society. Most of the Rohingyas living in exile have little means to educate their children.

vii. Lack of Practicing Politics among Rohingya

Prior to 1962 the Rohingya community has been recognized as an indigenous ethnic nationality of Burma. They have their representatives in Burmese parliament and some of them have been appointed as ministers, parliamentary secretaries and in high government positions. After the military take-over they have been systematically deprived of their political rights. With the promulgation of the most controversial and discriminatory citizenship law of 1982 they are declared as *non-national* or *foreign residents*. Very much contradictory to their declaration, the military could not disallow the Rohingyas to participate in multi-party elections held in 1990, the result of which was not implemented by the military junta. Today the Rohingyas are living in sub-human condition with uncertain future. They are declared a people fit to be exterminated.

Consequences of Rohingya Crisis on Bangladesh

Bangladesh faces serious challenges in managing the influx of Rohingya. Contrary to most opinion view is the impact is limited on both politics and economics. The political impact will be modest and largely improve the reputation of the government. The economic impact will be mildly expansionary. There will be a large impact locally on

Cox's Bazaar for the next few years. There are security concerns but the security forces will contain this. Of course all will not go well. There will be serious epidemics, much human suffering, and severe psychological damage to the Rohingya children. But the Bangladesh nation will survive this challenge with honour. Major impact of Rohingya crisis are described here in brief.

i. Problem regarding Location

While the Government will do a reasonable job of issuing ID cards and trying to keep the Rohingya in the designated areas inevitably there will be a lot of people who leave the camps and move into other areas. One should remember that there are perhaps 3-400,000 Rohingya were already in Bangladesh before the current problems started. Most of these men and women have drifted north and have found some kind of life, hence there are plenty of contacts around the country that the new refugees can make. Bangladesh has managed 4000 acres forest area of Cox's Bazar which is 0.05% loss in total national forest area.

ii. Impact on the Cox's Bazar Area

The impact on the southern part of Bangladesh along the border with Myanmar will be devastating. Rohingya spread out over much of the area and it will be many months before they will have proper shelter, water supply and sanitation. In the meantime there is widespread chaos as people fight for a place to shelter. Hopefully some of these refugees will be relocated to other countries but that is uncertain. Most will stay in Bangladesh. How to manage the long term problem is unclear. Over time many will find their way to other locations in Bangladesh. However, one must assume that in the Cox's Bazar area there will be several hundred thousand for the next three years. The Government will best deal with this by allowing the Rohingya to go to school and to work. There is no reason that they should not go to work and contribute something to Bangladesh and cover their own costs. Their presence will disrupt the Cox's Bazar area for years to come. At least education and employment will ease everyone's problems. Available data indicate that Bangladeshis with low levels of education are fully employed, so the Rohingya do not really threaten Bangladesh jobs.

iii. Impact on Politics

There will be plenty of difficulty in the next few months as the refugees struggle to get settled, find adequate shelter, as everyone works to establish medical facilities, to feed and care for the refugees and to control the movement and location of the Rohingya. No one should think that management of this great inflow is simple but conflicts and tragedy will occur. Some political parties are trying to get their beneficiaries using the public sentiment about humanitarian service and relief. Already, some extremist religious group has been identified in distributing relief among Rohingya. So, it can be

said easily that, Rohingya crisis management is an important factor in next parliamentary election.

iv. Food Availability

The rice prices have stabilized with the realization that there is plenty of food and stocking up at present high prices is foolish. The amount of food required for the Rohingya is not enough to disturb the market. Total rice consumption by Rohingya would be less than 0.2 million mts per year. This can easily be managed within the availability of rice in the country and will not influence the rice prices in the national economy. Food for vulnerable groups (*pregnant women, women nursing infants, under 3 years old infants*) will have to be handled by NGOs.

v. Impact on Economy

Concerns about stability, potential conflicts with Myanmar, and uncertainty will further discourage private investment. The Rohingya crisis is just one more factor to add to the concerns of the private sector. This crisis is unlikely to make a big difference. Tourism expenditures in Cox's Bazar will be greatly reduced over the next 12 months certainly damaging the hotel and restaurant business. There may be some respite as there is likely to be a large inflow of foreign aid workers. For Bangladesh consumers this will result in shifts of expenditures from tourism (in the Cox's Bazaar area) to other forms of consumption. Some of this shift may be to foreign travel but our estimate is that the effect will be small. Most Bangladesh households do not choose between going to Cox's Bazaar and going abroad. On the other hand the crisis will lead to higher government and NGO expenditures. This will increase the level of the Government deficit and act as an expansionary force on the economy. Increased foreign aid flows and foreign NGO expenditures will, along with a higher deficit, lead to more rapid economic growth. On balance the crisis will be an expansionary force on the economy.

vi. Increase of Military Expenditure

Bangladesh will probably increase its military expenditures in the face of the crisis. Conflict with Myanmar is now more likely. This may be a further expansionary economic force. These greater military expenditures will also be needed to handle the Rohingya camps. This assumes that peace will be maintained and that Bangladesh and Myanmar will not get into a shooting war.

vii. Relations with India will become frosty

If Indians throw out the 40,000 Rohingya reported to be in India there will be a lot of resentment. There will be increased anger at India for supporting Myanmar in carrying out such a nasty inhuman attack and then condoning the expulsion of Rohingya to Bangladesh. India's behavior is very troublesome for Bangladesh. The former foreign secretary of India *reminding Bangladesh* of the alleged 20 million Bangladeshis in India

was a crude threat unworthy of a senior officer of the Indian Government. All that comment did was to make Bangladeshi elites angry.

viii. Relations with China

The relations with China will be less effected but the result is not good for China's reputation. Although there is much hype about the money coming from China this is an illusion. In fact the real sources of financial support are the United States and Japan through the World Bank and the ADB. These flows plus the bilateral flows from Japan are in total far higher than the actual disbursed financing from India (less than \$100 million per annum), Russia (less than \$500 million) and China (less than \$750 million) combined. There is a lot of noise about Chinese project financing but in fact there is relatively little compared to the two main development banks and Japan. The betrayal of Bangladesh's interests by Russia, India and China is unfortunate and is a real lesson. These three countries turn out to be fair weather friends.

ix. Fundamentalism and Security

There is no doubt that some Rohingya will be attracted to Islamic fundamentalist views. Why would you think otherwise when the young men have seen their families abused and killed? Young men will seek outlet for their anger. Most Rohingya will find solace in their God and in prayer. ISIS agents and promoters of fundamentalist views will try to corrupt the Rohingya and lead them towards violence. This is an issue that the Government is alert to its importance, but nevertheless it is deeply dangerous. Given the vulnerability of the young men to the appeal to fight for vengeance and fairness, great care must be taken to prevent fundamentalist jihadist recruiters from indoctrinating young Rohingya. The development of jihadist Rohingya will be contained by the work of the Government in both preventing attempts to indoctrinate young men and women and also by providing an educational system that guards against such efforts. The authorities must be very careful, balancing firmness and compassion.

Recommendations for Solution of Rohingya Crisis

While it is encouraging to know that Bangladesh has taken diplomatic initiatives to bring the ongoing Rohingya refugee crisis to the international fora, the question is whether it has devised a strategy to go forward. Press reports inform that the Bangladesh foreign ministry has reached out to world powers such as Germany, China and Russia and contacted several multilateral bodies such as the United Nations, European Union, ASEAN and OIC for their help in addressing the humanitarian crisis that has befallen the Rohingya refugees who have crossed the border into Bangladesh in the past two weeks. These steps, along with a concrete proposal for establishing a *safe zone* within

Myanmar by the UN for persecuted Rohingyas, are a step in the right direction, although a bit late.

Final Report of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State, whose chair was Kofi Anaan has given outstanding guideline to solve the Rohingya refugee crisis in Myanmar. The recommendations by the report are as follows (**Final Report of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State, August 2017**).

1. The question of resource sharing between the Union and State Governments will be dealt with in the context of the national peace process and constitutional reform.
2. The Government should ensure adequate compensation for appropriated land.
3. The Commission reiterates that the Government of Myanmar should carry out a comprehensive assessment (or a so-called strategic environment assessment) for *Kyaukpnyuh* and its environs to explore how the Special Economic Zone (SEZ) may affect local communities and map how other economic sectors in the state may benefit (or possibly suffer) from the SEZ.
4. The Government should carry out labour market assessments – as well as a mapping of anticipated labour needs generated by planned industrial development in Rakhine.
5. The Government should be particularly sensitive to the needs of women whose labour force participation remains low. In labour market assessments, their potential and needs should be given special attention. In vocational training, women should be prioritized.
6. The Government should continue to invest heavily in infrastructure, including roads, waterways, jetties, electricity, drinking water and internet provision. In order to boost tourism, the Government should ensure that the planned airport in Mrauk U is constructed.
7. In order to increase productivity, the Government should expand extension services to farmers, including mechanization, provision of quality seeds, and training in modern agricultural techniques.
8. The Government should address regulatory issues that currently constrain SMEs and family businesses.
9. The Government should seek to reduce red tape in order to promote business, and expand accepted documentation to receive business licenses, not least as a way to include more Muslim businesses within the formal economic sector and reduce barriers to entry.

10. To ensure that mitigation and adaptation measures are in place to counter the adverse effects of climate change, the Government should urgently step up its efforts to strengthen the capabilities of communities to adopt climate resilient options.

China proposed a three-phase solution to help settle the issue in Myanmar's Rakhine state (**Xinhua news, 15 January 2018**). The phases of solution are-

- a) To achieve a ceasefire so that local residents can no longer be displaced
- b) The international community should encourage Myanmar and Bangladesh to keep communication in a bid to find a feasible solution to the issue.
- c) To find a long-term solution and the international community to support poverty alleviation efforts in Rakhine state.

The government of Bangladesh has taken two types steps to solve the Rohingya crisis.

- a) To raise the matter with Myanmar bilaterally.
- b) To sensitise international organisations and various countries.

Depending on the diplomatic activities of Government of Bangladesh, Bangladesh and Myanmar signed an 'instrument' on Rohingya repatriation in November, 2017. According to this pact, a Joint Working Group will be established within three weeks of signing the 'Arrangement'. A specific bilateral instrument (physical arrangement) for repatriation will be concluded in a speedy manner. But the time limit and implementation ways are not clear at all. The paper recommend some other ways to solute the crisis.

- i. Role and intervention of influential country and international community such as UN, ASEAN, USA, China and India.
- ii. More diplomatic initiatives by Government of Bangladesh.
- iii. Providing immediate supporting and relief to the migrated people.
- iv. Repatriation of Rohingyas and rehabilitate them in productive jobs.
- v. Multilateral meeting can create pressure on Myanmar.

Role of Social Worker to Mitigate the Problem

Rohingya crisis is one of the burning issue in the present world. Its create burden or pressure for our country because 600,000 rohingya people patriot in our country. As social work is a helping profession so social worker plays an important role to minimize this problem. Social worker has some responsibilities to over this crisis that are given bellow. In a statistics, it has been found that UNICEF has already trained 70 social workers on case management for vulnerable children including unaccompanied and

separated children. (UNICEF, Bangladesh Humanitarian Situation report No. 13 (Rohingya influx), Page 01, 24-30 November 2017)

i. To give psycho-social support

Rohingya people fled away from their country by torturing of Myanmar army. So they are mentally disappointed. Myanmar army and general people forcibly detest rohingya people from their society and nation and they take shelter in our country. So social worker should give psycho social support of these people. Social worker give motivational speech so that they become mentally strong.

ii. To find out the real situation

Social worker should visit Rohingya camp area and observe their situation. As social worker want to help this people so it is very much important to know the real situation of Rohingya camp. Because social worker want to solve this problem and also help them so that they can get support and fulfil minimum fundamental needs.

iii. To help government to make strategy to solve Rohingya crisis

If we want to overcome Rohingya crisis then an effective strategy implement as soon as possible. Social worker can provide advocacy our government to make strategy so that we solve this problem. Social worker can apply their professional knowledge to determine government strategy because social work technique and method very much relevant to solve this problem.

iv. Negotiation with Myanmar

Social worker can negotiate with Myanmar government about Rohingya crisis on behalf of our government .Myanmar army and general people obligate to leave their country on the basis of their wrong concept so that Rohingya is not their ethnic. Social worker can discuss with Myanmar governing body and clarify Rohingya's genetic background and break down their misconception about them. Social worker negotiate with Myanmar government and repatriation of Rohingya people to their previous living land.

v. To assist in creating policy and plan to overcome this crisis

About 600,000 rohingya people are take shelter in our country as refugee. These large number of people create a lot of problems in Bangladesh. So government should take necessary steps to solve this problem. Social workers help government how the process to overcome crisis and what plan should be taken. Social worker can work as a consultant and give effective plan to minimize this problem for long time.

vi. To help sexually harassed Rohingya women :

A large number of rohingya women are sexually harassed by myanmar army and general people .Most of them become pregnant as a result of rapes. So they are suffer psycho somatic disorder and mentally disappointed. Social worker provide support them and try to return normal life who is sexually harassed. Social worker motivate them so that they do not make unwanted situation like suicide. They also assist to provide maternal treatment properly.

vii. To make public opinion:

Rohingya crisis is one of the most important problem in the present world. It create for conflict between Arakan Muslims and majority percent Buddhist people in Myanmar. Myanmar army also humiliate them and force them to left their motherland. So social worker make public on behalf of the Rohingya people nationally and internationally .These worldwide public opinion effect on Myanmar government to solve this problem and stop genocide.

viii. Concern international organization:

The genocide of Rohingya people touch heart of world people. People see by social media how Myanmar army torture innocent people. They scarper our country and living rigorous life. Social worker should show the real situation and concern international organization about this issue .They pressurize the Myanmar government to solve the problem. Social worker communicate with United Nations, European Union and others organization so that they bargaining with Myanmar army and government. They recognize Rohingya as a citizen of their country and repatriation their living land

Conclusion

Though the origin of this crisis and the solution to this crisis both lie in Myanmar, Bangladesh should repeatedly appeal to United Nations and the international communities to take immediate and effective measures for a permanent solution. Along with the Home Minister and concerned authorities should keep communicating with Myanmar authorities for a permanent solution through diplomatic ways. It is Bangladesh that has to play prime role to solve the crisis as it has been bearing the burnt of Rohingya crisis. The international community should strive to fully understand the sensitivities that prevail in Rakhine State and work with the Government to achieve a positive vision for the future. Myanmar should be open to advice and support from the international community, recognising that what it does or does not do has ramifications far beyond the borders of the country. To the extent that the Government wishes to treat Rakhine as *a domestic issue*, as the Commission has often heard, then it should at least declare its readiness to aid all people residing in Rakhine State, irrespective of ethnicity, religion and citizenship status, on the basis of fairness and equity.

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