

“Socioeconomic Impacts of Rohingya Crisis in Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh”

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Abstract

Rohingya—an ethnic community displaced due to the enormous oppression and injustice inflicted by the state of Myanmar and their sudden crossing of borders towards the neighboring country of Bangladesh—has reshaped the social and economic landscape of the host communities in Ukhiya, Cox’s Bazar. This article analyzed the experiences and perceptions of the host community and how the prolonged influx of refugees has affected the everyday lives and livelihood of the residents living nearby the Balukhali and Kutupalong camps. Using a mixed-methods design, data were collected through a survey with 115 respondents, 15 in-depth case studies, and 1 key informant interview among the residents of Rajapalong union and nearby villages, Ukhiya. The findings of the study demonstrate that the Rohingya influx has had multiple impacts in the socio-economic spheres, including changes in the labor demand, loss of income for poorer households, higher cost of living, decreased access to food, water, and firewood, and pressures on education and health services. Respondents also reported heightened social disruption, crime, and security issues. The study argues that, while some groups are exceptionally benefitting from employment and business opportunities related to camps, holistic impacts are negative for the host population. Furthermore, the study calls for policies and planning to be executed regarding infrastructural development and sustainable solutions to the crisis. Repatriation with strict regulatory mechanisms is the most recommended solution to the crisis.

Key Words: Rohingya, Social impacts, Economic impacts, Refugee crisis, Host community, Bangladesh

1. Introduction:

The Rohingya community is an indigenous group of Myanmar residing in Rakhine State, and they are not the nation's mainstream population, differing from the majority based on culture, belief, religion, and language. Due to this very historical setting, violent conflicts have been a regular encounter among ethnic and racial groups, which have occurred in

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various segments over the years. This violent attitude was rooted in the legacy of British colonialism (Tajuddin, 2018). After independence, the Rohingya community staged a rebellion against the policies of the Myanmar government. Tensions have always existed since the 1950s, when ethnic Rakhine and Muslim communities demanded autonomy from the Myanmar government (Smith, 1996). The Rohingya people were denied their citizenship rights and were excluded based on the Citizenship Act of 1982 of Myanmar, which, as a result, left them stateless (Ahmed, 2009; Farzana, 2017). They were deprived of fundamental human rights and ignored by the state incredibly. According to the United Nations, the Rohingya community is the most oppressed group worldwide. The Rohingya crisis is a clash solely based on views and practices associated with religion, whereas the concern is more economic and political (Wolf, 2014). The killing and torture of the Rohingyas in Myanmar started afresh in 2017 when an intensified clearance operation by Myanmar’s security forces took place. Thousands of people, mostly Rohingyas, were killed (Ranjan, 2017). Democracy revolved then in Myanmar, but not humanity. The UN human rights chief has described the Rohingya persecution as "a textbook example of ethnic cleansing" and even asserts it can be considered genocide (Sandri, 2017). The Rohingya community in Myanmar has been coming to neighboring country Bangladesh since August 2017. More than one million Rohingya people have crossed the border and taken shelter in Ukhiya and Teknaf, Cox’s Bazar. As the host country, Bangladesh has been immensely affected by such an influx of people and experienced diverse impacts on the local host community (UNB report, 2020). Because of the migration to Bangladesh, the Rohingya community has been raised as a "crisis issue." Bangladesh, already known as an impoverished and overpopulated nation-state, could be on the verge of exhausting its economy and depleting its resources because of the overwhelming stream of people, pushing those who are already struggling to the threshold (Alam, 2017; Mercy Corps report, 2018). Despite being sympathetic and supportive towards the displaced community, local people and concerned citizens are now expressing apprehensions and worries about the varied impacts on multiple aspects, such as employment opportunities, businesses, prices of commodities, etc. Security threats are also posed by the influx (Idris, 2017). Accordingly, Rafi (2024) studied the country's internal stability, which is also endangered. The extent of the impact of such challenges will depend on the duration of stay of the Rohingyas. On the other hand, there might be a

negative impact on the well-being of the displaced community due to the loss of usual income sources, work-life, and so much reliance on aid (Anwar et al., 2024). While existing literature focused much more on the solution and strategies to confront the refugee crisis in Bangladesh, gaps remain framing the social and economic impacts of the crisis, and the lived experience of residents due to the influx and how they are mitigating those in their everyday lives. In this paper, we intend to explore the conditions and changes in the host local area, Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, and how the situation that came along with the crisis impacted local people and their daily lives. Since the local host community people examined in the study have also offered recommendations, it would potentially help policymakers formulate strategies with deliberate and pertinent decisions to address the challenge.

1.1 Research Objectives:

The study has the following objectives:

- a. To understand the current situation of the host community after the Rohingya crisis.
- b. To explore the impact of the Rohingya crisis on the socio-economic aspects in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh.
- c. To offer a few policy recommendations for overcoming the current crisis.

2. Literature Review:

A refugee situation means suffering for the refugees and displaced people, the community, and the host country. This situation burdens the host country's financial and physical resources, and intensive support with an immense effort to deliver aid by the international community to the targeted population is expected. The difficulties are unbearable when the refugee situation is prolonged, and there is no hope of possible sustainable solutions and reliable concentration (Azad & Jasmin, 2013). The root causes behind any refugee crisis may be defined in multiple aspects, starting from race, ethnicity, religion, or cultural difference to historical basis, political upheaval, or economic perspectives (Yeni, 2009). It has been reported that around 24 people are bound to leave their land every minute, which proves that an all-time high number of displaced people was seen in 2017, which was approximately 68.5 million (Care, 2017). Three million of those people are what international law calls refugees: people fleeing persecution in their home countries based on race, religion,

nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion. They had nowhere to go, so they were bound to be seen as "the world's least wanted," and they were floating between countries that persecuted or rejected them (Blocher & Gulati, 2016).

Schneiderheinze and Lücke (2020) discussed an interesting fact: most developed countries around the world tend not to host refugees the most. On the contrary, developing countries do provide shelter in an admirable number with so many structural barriers in economy and resources. Turkey, Pakistan, and Lebanon host 30% of the world's refugees, and Cameroon, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan, and Uganda host 28% of the refugees. It is assumed that while humanitarian aid and financial support lessen the economic burden, indirectly added refugees impact the country's overall economy and internal stability (UNHCR, 2017; OECD, 2017; Nkwatoh & Ibrahim, 2021). The assumption is well evidenced in several research findings, where the impacts of hosting the refugees upon the locals and overall country have been recognized: for example, Eritrean refugees in Kassala, Eastern Sudan, Congolese refugees in Rwanda, Afghan refugees in Pakistan and Iran, Syrian refugees on the Dodecanese islands in Europe. It is reported that social life has been affected, international criminal activities have increased so far, and the number of tourists has decreased with a massive impact on the economy (Kok, 1989; Smith, 2016; Fajth, et. al. 2019. Abbasi et. al. 2022).

It has been found that over 7,23,000 Rohingya refugees have fled to Bangladesh, crossing borders, walking for long through jungles and mountains, and even fighting through the most dangerous sea passage across the Bay of Bengal from August 2017 to August 2018. The state has been responsible for the long-lasting vulnerable condition of the community since successive governments implemented discriminatory laws and policies against the Rohingya (Uddin, 2022). Victimized in their land, Rohingya people have become increasingly desperate to seek a safe future. Despite having so many concerns and issues like security and cost, the government of Bangladesh was again reluctant to allow the Rohingya refugees. Therefore, the massive number of refugees created complex challenges for the whole region, especially for neighboring Bangladesh (Wolf, 2014).

During the influx, the displaced community who arrived in Bangladesh, crossing the border, took shelter in and around the refugee settlements of

Kutupalong and Nayapara in Cox's Bazar district. Those settlements in Kutupalong and Nayapara were already providing shelter to refugees who came earlier to Bangladesh since the 1990s. Such an enormous scale of the influx is putting immense pressure on the Bangladesh host community and existing resources, facilities and services, stretching infrastructure and services to their limits. Chambers (1986) presents theories on how host communities, based on contextual conditions, will be impacted by refugee camp presence. He argues that in areas where access to natural resources is limited, it is likely that host communities will be hurt as competition for these resources could increase. The Ukhiya context fits Chambers's (1986) description of an area with limited common property resources. According to his theory, would locals in Rajapalong be losing out on these vital resources? The government of Bangladesh and local Bangladeshi villagers spared no effort to help, straining their already limited resources. Still, limited resources and overpopulation ultimately turned the condition for host residents and host areas into an undeniable crisis, posing a severe threat and pressure for the local host community, and excessive pressure was created on the already poor livelihood strategies and environmental resources (Care, 2017). Wolf (2014) shows that the Rohingya refugee influx impacts different domestic spheres of local public life, especially social, economic, and environmental aspects. The Rohingya issue has posed a potential threat to local people with internal stability in the state (Rafi, 2024).

Refugees and refugee crises are one of the most studied issues among researchers and academicians. The current Rohingya refugee crisis in Bangladesh has been understood as a humanitarian crisis, and of course, it is. Multi-dimensional studies have been prioritized, such as causes and historical analysis of the refugee influx and Rohingya crisis, situational analysis of the host community, and durable solutions. However, there has been a gap in the comprehensive study on the Rohingya issue, which looks at the problem by concentrating on how the crisis affects the host country in its socio-economic spheres. Empirical research and in-depth analysis are a must to analyze the crisis and bring forth probable solutions.

3. Theoretical Framework:

The first objective addressed in this research looked closer into the current situation of the host community after the recent Rohingya influx and the balance of impacts that are affecting the people of the host community of Rajapalong Union of Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar. As the size and multiplicity of

impacts affecting the host community are significantly large, the research did not go into depth on all these impacts but instead identified the ones with the most significant effect. The research focused on how the Rohingya crisis affected the socio-economic spheres of the local communities in Ukhiya, and that is the second objective addressed in the research. Literature on the topic validated that understanding these relationships is highly important, as such scenarios are not likely to disappear, and more knowledge of how refugee influx and established camps affect host communities is needed.

3.1 Chambers (1986) Theories on Common Property Resources:

Chambers (1986) offers hypotheses about how refugee camps affect host communities depending on circumstantial factors. He argues that in areas where access to natural resources is limited, it is likely that host communities will be hurt as competition for these resources could increase. Chambers (1986) further claims that the overexploitation of common property resources (CPRs) in hosting communities is likely due to camp development. The Ukhiya context fits Chambers's (1986) description of an area where CPRs are limited. According to his theory, would locals in Rajapalong be losing out on these vital resources? Chambers (1986) also presents a theory on how host communities may benefit from the refugee presence through the development of social services, such as schools and health services, becoming available for the hosting part.

3.2 Labor Market Distortion:

Alix-Garcia and Saah (2009) confirm Chambers's (1986) views that increasing competition for resources, population growth, and migration may negatively impact the host community and their household viability. They also assume that the host community can benefit from new marketplaces where people can buy, sell, and exchange goods with refugees. The theories presented here on how host communities can be hurt by losing vital resources and benefit from hosting refugees through gaining more access to social services and potential opportunities like market and employment will be crucial to the research. However, the balance between these potential effects is dynamic, complex, and somewhat unexplored in the literature.

The main objective of the research is to measure how the refugee camp affects the host community, particularly in the socio-economic sphere. As

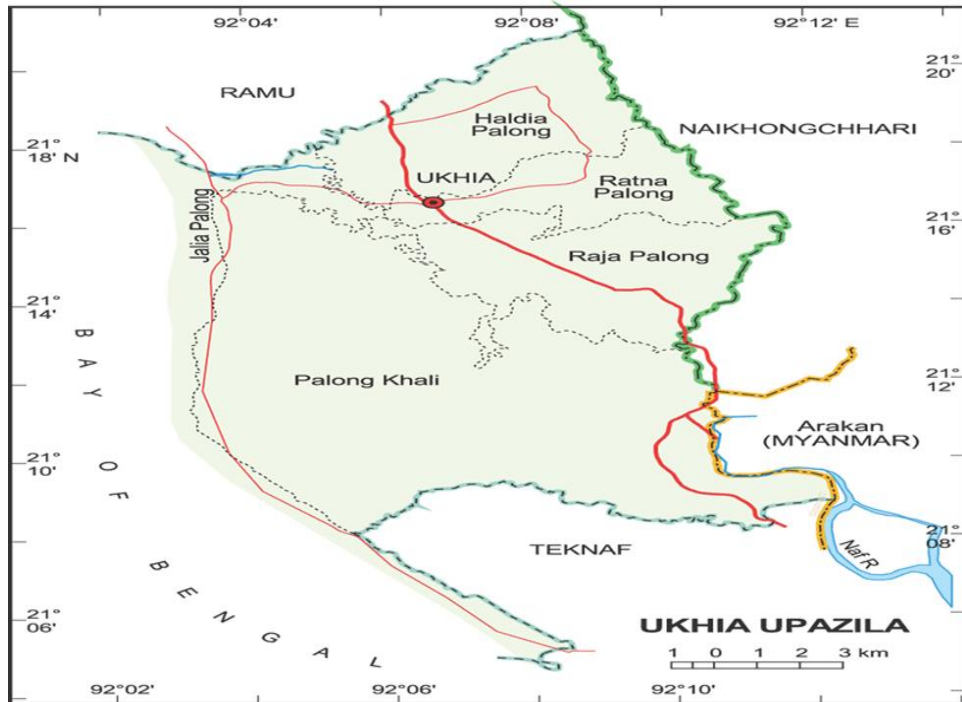
explained, the Rajapalong host community is attributed to the hills and forest environment with vast natural resources, which are now distributed among both local people and the Rohingya population. Therefore, these theories presented an interesting framework for analyzing the findings from the Rajapalong host community concerning specific research questions.

4. Research Methodology:

This study intends to explore the current condition of host communities and assess the socioeconomic impacts and hardships experienced due to the Rohingya influx. The research was conducted in Ukhiya upazila of Cox's Bazar district, which has been identified as one of the most affected areas by the Rohingya crisis. Special focus was given to the areas surrounding the Kutupalong and Balukhali Rohingya camps. Ukhiya upazila consists of five unions: Jaiapalong, Rajapalong, Ratnapalong, Holodiapalong, and Palongkhali. According to the UNDP (2017) Impact Assessment Report, Palongkhali and Rajapalong unions were most impacted by the Rohingya influx. For that reason, Rajapalong union and its nearby villages were selected as the primary study sites. Neighboring villages near the camps included in the study are: Gilatoli, Faliapara, Kutupalong, Modhurchara, and Lombashia. In this study, using a non-probability purposive sampling, a mixed-method approach was employed to ensure both quantitative and qualitative depth. To conduct the quantitative survey, structured questionnaires were administered to 115 respondents. A total of 15 detailed case studies were conducted to provide contextual insights and gather deeper personal experiences and perceptions from selected individuals. One in-depth interview with a key informant enriched the findings with expert opinion. The data were collected from April to May 2021. To process and analyse the quantitative survey data, responses were cleaned and analysed through statistical software- SPSS. Moreover, the qualitative data, including case studies and key informant interviews, were analysed using an interpretative and thematic approach. The in-depth interviews were recorded, field notes were taken as well where needed and transcribed, then read carefully, and repeatedly to generate recurrent themes related to livelihood, access to resources, social disruption, and other changes. Therefore, an interpretative method was applied to analyse qualitative data by developing codes iteratively and grouping those into broader categories to better understand the findings from the qualitative study. Thus, the

integration of the mixed-method approach helped find out the wider scenario reflecting the socio-economic impacts on the local residents near refugee camps in Ukhiya due to prolonged influx.

As the sample size of the study is small in size, it is not generalizable. Moreover, due to the time and funding constraints, the data were collected using purposive sampling, and as the experiences and voices of the host residents are reflected in the paper, there might have some perception bias.



Map of the Research Area

5. Results:

This survey was conducted in 2021 to determine the changes and impacts in socio-economic spheres due to the Rohingya influx in Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar. Respondents (Mean age of 41 and 40-50 in range) were chosen from different villages in the Rajapalong Union. Various characteristics among the respondents, such as age, gender, household size, and time spent in Ukhiya, have been shown. Among the respondents, 62% were Male, and 38% were Female. More than half of the respondents have resided in Ukhiya since birth. According to the study, 98% of the respondents believe that they are facing more unrest and inconvenient

circumstances with some heavy impacts in the socio-economic spheres due to the Rohingya influx.

Furthermore, the respondents believe this crisis is affecting their living standards in addition to creating a haphazard situation in their locality. Among the 115 respondents, 11.1% maintain an ecologically dependent livelihood, and others depend on several types of occupations, which are explicitly mentioned in the table below. Few of them (15%) have not set themselves to any specific but some manual or seasonal labors. Livelihood strategy, including their culture, norms, lifestyle, and daily activities, was simple and primarily dependent on natural resources.

Socio-demographic Factors	Rajapalong Union				
	Village 1	Village 2	Village 3	Village 4	Village 5
	Gilatoli (%)	Faliapara (%)	Kutupalong (%)	Modhuchara (%)	Lombashia (%)
*Age category					
18 -30	43 (15)	54 (7)	49 (16)	47 (8)	59 (10)
31 – 40	29 (10)	23 (3)	24 (8)	29 (5)	12 (2)
41 – 50	14 (5)	8 (1)	12 (4)	12 (2)	12 (2)
51 – 60	14 (5)	15 (2)	15 (5)	12 (2)	17 (3)
*Educational status					
0 – 5	46 (12)	53 (10)	52 (16)	55 (12)	65 (11)
6 – 8	19 (5)	26 (5)	22 (7)	27 (6)	17 (3)
9 – 12	27 (7)	21 (4)	16 (5)	14 (3)	12 (2)
12+	8 (2)	0 (0)	10 (3)	4 (1)	6 (1)
*Gender difference					
Male	64 (21)	59 (10)	62 (20)	56 (10)	67 (10)
Female	36 (12)	41 (7)	38 (12)	44 (8)	33 (5)
*Occupational Status					
Self-employed (Agriculture, livestock)	19 (5)	25 (6)	16 (6)	23 (3)	14 (2)
Domestic					

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Worker	11 (3)	13 (3)	11 (4)	15 (2)	8 (1)
Day-Labour	22 (6)	21 (5)	16 (6)	15 (2)	14 (2)
Salaried	7 (2)	13 (3)	13 (5)	8 (1)	14 (2)
Worker	4 (1)	4 (1)	6 (2)	0 (0)	14 (2)
Driving	4 (1)	0 (0)	9 (3)	0 (0)	14 (2)
Trade-Business	18 (5)	16 (4)	13 (5)	15 (2)	8 (1)
Student	15 (4)	8 (2)	13 (5)	24 (3)	14 (2)
Homemaker	0 (0)	0 (0)	3 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Teacher					
*Duration of Staying in Ukhiya					
Since Birth	92 (22)	76 (16)	85 (27)	81 (17)	88 (15)
20	8 (2)	5 (1)	9 (3)	5 (1)	6 (1)
30	0 (0)	9 (2)	3 (1)	9 (2)	6 (1)
40	0 (0)	5 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
40+	0 (0)	5 (1)	3 (1)	5 (1)	0 (0)
*Income					
2000-4000	15 (4)	16 (4)	18 (5)	15 (3)	13 (2)
4000-6000	11 (3)	12 (3)	14 (4)	10 (2)	7 (1)
6000-8000	7 (2)	4 (1)	11 (3)	10 (2)	7 (1)
8000-10000	7 (2)	12 (3)	11 (3)	10 (2)	14 (2)
10000-12000	11 (3)	16 (4)	14 (4)	15 (3)	20 (3)
12000-14000	4 (1)	0 (0)	4 (1)	5 (1)	0 (0)
14000-16000	11 (3)	4 (1)	7 (2)	5 (1)	13 (2)
16000+	19 (5)	24 (6)	14 (4)	20 (4)	13 (2)
No income	15 (4)	12 (3)	7 (2)	10 (2)	13 (2)
*Household Size					
2-4	46 (12)	40 (8)	43 (18)	31 (5)	46 (5)
5-7	46 (12)	50 (10)	48 (20)	38 (6)	36 (4)
8-10	8 (2)	10 (2)	7 (3)	19 (3)	9 (1)
10+	0 (0)	0 (0)	2 (1)	12 (2)	9 (1)

Table 1: Socio-demographic Profile of the Respondents (Field Survey, 2021)

According to 98.8% of respondents, their locality's condition has changed since the Rohingya influx occurred. The local people's livelihood strategy has now turned into a point where a significant portion of the community faces suffering and changes in their lives.

Changing Condition		Frequency (115)	Percentage
Changes in Daily Life	yes	77	66.7
	no	38	33.3
Changes in Locality	yes	114	98.8
	no	01	1.2
Total			100.00

Table 2: Changing Condition

6. Discussion:

There are diverse areas where socio-economic impacts are experienced (at different levels) by the host community, such as education, health, food and water, business, trading, workplace, medical facilities, and transportation. The theoretical framework of this research is primarily based on Chambers' (1986) hypotheses on host community impacts due to refugee arrival. Chambers argues that refugee camps can affect the host communities negatively, particularly where natural resources are scarce due to increased competition. Common property resources like forests and hills are shared between locals and refugees in Rajapalong Union, and this dynamic is evident here. Chambers' theories on how social and economic impacts can change the host community's condition are supported by Jacobsen (2005) and Alix-Garcia and Saah (2010). Interestingly, infrastructural development and the founding of hotels, housing for the agencies and people recruited there to support displaced Rohingya people have accelerated the urbanization process in Ukhiya at the regional level (Islam et al., 2023).

6.1 Social Impacts:

6.1.1 Access to Food:

Since trees and forests surround the host area of Ukhiya, the host community is mainly dependent on fruits, vegetables, and livestock rearing. They were accustomed to grazing their livestock in the fields, which the Rohingya people now fill up (Kudrat-E-Khuda, 2020). On the

other hand, out of extreme traumatic situations and vulnerability, the Rohingya people were eager to build up a new shelter and livelihood for themselves. This compelled them to cut trees and grab the lands, which left them being destroyed both by the Rohingya and welfare organizations working for them. The direct impact of this was seen in the host community's regular life, which depended entirely on the forests, lands, trees, and hills for collecting food, farming lands, and rearing livestock. 4.5% of the people reported that they lost their land to farming, and another 4.5% were concerned that the refugee people are destroying trees and forests.

Access to Food		Frequency(115)	Percentage
Changes in access to food	yes	94	81.5
	no	21	18.5
Change pattern	regular access	22	18.5
	access decreased	93	80.2
Total			100.00

Table 3: Access to Food

Other prime causes behind the decreased access to food for local people are price hikes, increased prices of goods and essentials, and food grain shortages. The Rohingya influx not only brought the Rohingya together but also brought thousands of more people from different country districts as humanitarian aid and people working as employees of different government and non-government organizations.

Therefore, with this increased number of people, the pressure and demand for regular goods and essentials increased, with lower availability and higher prices. Naturally, local general people are suffering both from decreased access and price hikes.

6.1.2 Access to Water:

The study says that 39.5% of people regarded changes in access to water occurred, while the majority (60.5%) of people do not think similarly. Water scarcity or pressure on the water source and the unavailability of water are some difficulties the local people have to face, which have made those without any personal water source dependent on others with tube wells to meet this need. Another important factor behind the decreased

water access has been defined as well; for the Rohingya people and established camps, many tube wells are being set up, and those pipes have been established by organizations that are big enough to restrict the tiny pipes to get water adequately. This has constrained the water sources for the host people.

6.1.3 Access to Firewood:

Access to firewood means the availability and regular use pattern of firewood daily. Many people depend on firewood for cooking in Ukhiya, which is collected from nearby hilly areas. The study finds that, according to 98.8% of the respondents, there have been changes in the access to firewood due to the Rohingya crisis. Causes behind the adverse impact on their access to firewood are pointed out by the respondents (98.8%) as scarcity and lower availability (15%), massive pressure on the firewood resources (10%), increased price of firewood in the local market due to higher demand (41.2%), trees and forests destroyed by the Rohingya people and hills are being flattened down (33.8%).

Access to Firewood		Frequency (115)	Percentage
Changes in access to firewood	yes	114	98.8
	no	1	1.2
Change pattern	regular access	1	1.2
	access decreased	114	98.8
Causes of Changes	scarcity	17	15.0
	huge pressure	12	10.0
	price increased	47	41.2
	price increased	39	33.8
	trees and forests destroyed		
Total			100.00

Table 4: Access to Firewood

6.1.4 Education:

Among the respondents who reported, impacts on the educational opportunities are visible. 64.6% of people stated that opportunities are now decreasing and problems are arising day by day due to the Rohingya crisis. They described that their children could not reach school on time because of extreme traffic jams and a scarcity of transport at the specific time they go to school. Another growing fear among the residents is their children being kidnapped by the refugees, as there is a probability of trafficking and immoral activities by the vulnerable Rohingya refugee community. 5.7% of respondents defined traffic jams as a significant problem. In comparison, 1.9% of people expressed their concern about the scarcity of transportation, and a significant number of people (34%) reported that security concerns are making them vulnerable. 52.8% of respondents noted that all these causes- security, scarcity of transportation, and traffic jams- are responsible for the education problem.

Educational opportunities		Frequency (115)	Percentage
Changes in educational opportunities	yes	79	68.5
	no	36	31.5
Change pattern	regular	35	30.4
	facilities	6	5.1
	facilities	74	64.6
	increased facilities decreased		
Causes of Changes	pressure in schools	4	3.8
	transportation scarcity	2	1.9
	traffic jam	7	5.7
	security concern	39	34.0
	scarcity, jam, and security (all)	2	1.9
		61	52.8
Total			100.00

Table 5: Educational Opportunities

This study suggests that educational opportunities will continue to have a more significant impact on the host community. Traffic jams, security concerns, and better job holding by teachers as they tend to receive offers from humanitarian agencies with higher salaries are some of the rising problems in schools in Ukhiya. Host people are concerned about their children as they are unwilling to go to school because of the trouble with roads and transportation, and they cannot reach school on time. Moreover, guardians are concerned about their security, and they have a fear of accidents.

Many students are leaving their regular classes because they are getting jobs—such as community volunteers in NGOs, refugee response programs, etc. So, they are now more focused on their income source, and one respondent thinks it is one of the causes behind the fall of SSC results (a resident of Ukhiya mentioned it).

6.1.5 Health Risks and Diseases:

There has been an increased risk of health impacts and diseases for the host community's local people after the influx. Many types of infectious diseases came up with the Rohingya people, as the proper screening was not possible then. Health risks and suffering are getting higher day by day, according to 95.1% of people. The most reported diseases they suffer from are diarrhea (38.7%) and skin diseases (22.5%).

Health and medical facilities		Frequency (115)	Percentage
Changes in medical facilities	yes	104	90.1
	no	11	9.9
Change pattern	regular	11	9.9
	facilities	40	34.6
	facilities	64	55.6
	increased		
	facilities		
	decreased		
Total			100.00

Table 6: Health and Medical Facilities

Some people (22.5%) reported that they observed that the diseases mainly found among their family members after the influx were diarrhea, skin diseases, malaria, cholera, and diphtheria. Overall, this has created a significant risk for all the locals of being infected with these diseases.

While cleaning the latrines in camp, they must wear masks over their mouths as there is so much bad smell. The crisis also created a serious health risk for them. So, it pinpoints the hygiene issues in the nearby areas. (Nurul Kabir- Ukhiya)

6.1.6 Social Disruptions:

Social disruption indicates the disobeying of laws and disorderly situations in any locality. Due to the refugee crisis, the host community is also facing some social disorders. 90.1% of the respondents reported an increase in disruptive social situations. The main types of reported disruptions include violation of law, disorder, crime, deviant behaviour, and violence.

Numerous security issues have been getting attention since the influx. (Taufiq, 2021) 39.7% expressed their concern about the law-and-order situation, and 1.4% reported security issues. 4.1% of the host people stated their concern about the increasing criminal activities, while another 12.3% reported violence. 39.7% of host respondents were concerned about security and crime activities. A group of respondents (2.7%) also reported about all disruption types pointed out above. Conflict situations have occurred both between the Rohingya and the locals and among the Rohingyas as well. The feeling of insecurity increased thereby, as the refugees tend to be violent suddenly. (Kudrat-E-Khuda, 2020) 92.6% of host respondents reported increased social conflict situations in recent days. A few of the respondents have also reported the refugees' being disrespectful about the culture and nationality of the Ukhiya hosts. Mohiuddin and Molderez (2023) explored in their study that a negative socio-cultural and moral change has been noticed among the young generation in the post-influx period. While some youths are trying to get the positive outcome of income inflow through small businesses, some are being stuck in illegal drug businesses, e.g., selling Yaba tablets with the help of refugees.

Social Disruption		Frequency (115)	Percentage
Impact	yes	104	90.1
	no	11	9.9
Types of problems	Security issues	41	39.8
	Law and order	2	1.4
	Crime	4	4.1
	Violence	13	12.3
	Insecurity and crime	41	39.7
	All	3	2.7
Total			100.00

Table 7: Social Disruption

Another fact pointed out by the respondents is that they feel a sense of disturbance while going out as there are almost three or four check posts, and they are even asked about their nationality, which is sometimes very unexpected and disrespectful to them as Bengalis. The Rohingya influx has significantly impacted the family life of the host community immensely, as they mentioned. Family life has been interrupted in various ways, and the distress and worries of the wives are getting higher, especially in recent days. Many people from the host community are now willing to marry the Rohingya women to get the facilities and relief aid – which has started to raise concerns among the host residents. The language of children is also being affected and changing gradually as Rohingya people are living nearby, and they have a similar kind of language with different accents. According to the respondents, the refugees often use slang words and show violent attitudes, which alone is causing anxiety among them. These kinds of behavior significantly impact the host community's members.

A woman mentioned that while quarreling, her husband started threatening her to remarry any Rohingya woman; he also predicted marrying Rohingya was positive and profitable.

6.2 Economic Impacts:

6.2.1 Occupation:

87.5% of the respondents stated significant impacts on the occupation due to the influx, whereas 12.5% found no significant change. The Rohingya influx has made a progressive impact on driving and business, whereas lower-income people suffer more than before by losing their work and labour-selling opportunities. 51.3% of people have mentioned getting more facilities as they now have new employment opportunities with increased business profits.

Occupation		Frequency(115)	Percentage
Impact on occupation	yes	101	87.5
	no	14	12.5
Change pattern	Regular	9	7.9
	facilities	59	51.3
	facilities increased	47	40.8
	facilities decreased		
Total			100.00

Table 8: Impact on Occupation

However, they have regarded lower-income people as at the worst receiving end of this crisis, as they are not getting the work they used to with the growing market price of goods and high living costs. People who are dependent on natural resources for their livelihood are suffering more.

People doing business are doing good, but some people in the local market are not making a higher profit due to declining demand. (Nurul Alam- Kutupalong).

6.2.2 Income:

45.6% of host respondents stated that their income increased, as they are mostly businessmen, and some of the unemployed got employment opportunities related to the camp activities. 41.8% of them reported lower income due to the Rohingya crisis, whereas 12.7% of people still have a regular income.

Income		Frequency (115)	Percentage
Changes	yes	98	85.2
	no	17	14.8
Change pattern	regular income	15	12.7
	income increased	44	45.6
	income decreased	41	41.8
Total			100.00

Table 9: Impact on Local Income

Therefore, the camp has created a larger market for generating income and better opportunities to provide basic needs such as food and water for the Rohingya people. However, this camp-centered business and market have hurt the local market and business people.

6.2.3 Working Opportunity:

Changes in working opportunities occurred as the overpopulation in the host locality lessened the higher demands of labour with more organizations and more employments. Kudrat-E-Khuda (2020) explored that, as jobs are readily attainable in aid agencies, people tend to switch their livelihoods for an improved life, creating labor scarcity in the farm and local market. Moreover, with the extra population, extra essentials are also needed, which made some noteworthy changes in the business sector. 93.8% of host respondents think changes occur in the host people's working opportunities, either optimistic or undesirable. The reasons for changes are difficulties in farming and harvesting and livestock rearing, pressure on the job market, and lower demand for the day labourer, which are the most reported causes of changed working opportunities.

Working opportunities		Frequency(115)	Percentage
Changes	yes	108	93.8
	no	7	6.2
Causes behind the changes	availability of job	21	19.5
	Rohingyas take jobs	34	31.2

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	wage increased	1	1.3
	low wage	3	2.6
	working opportunities	35	32.5
	lower demand for labor	7	6.5
	pressure on the job market	6	5.2
	difficulties in farming	1	1.3
Occupations taken by Rohingyas	day labor	78	68.0
	business	8	6.7
	all	29	25.3
Total			100.00

Table 10: Changes in Working Opportunities

32.5% of host respondents reported new employment opportunities with the influx, and around 1.3% of the host people were able to earn higher wages than before. According to 19.5% of respondents, working opportunities increased due to the arrival of humanitarian organizations in Ukhiya.

"An intermediate student shared her opinion about the refugee crisis, saying that the organization working for the Rohingya community created job opportunity for her and getting 6000 TK per month is supportive to her family now."

68% of host respondents think that the day labourers are suffering more as the Rohingya people are willing to do the same work at a lower price. So, as a result, employers are now giving more working opportunities to the Rohingya people.

Since the needy refugee population is now working at a lower price, which is not even half of the local rate; the sufferings of the daily wage labor is beyond explanation as the jobs are now being taken by Rohingya people (Sayed Alam- Kutupalong)

6.2.4 Cost of Living:

The higher cost of living is another substantial economic impact on the host community. Study findings show that 93.8% of host respondents confirmed changes in the cost of living due to the Rohingya influx.

Cost of living		Frequency (115)	Percentage
Change pattern	regular cost of living	7	6.2
	higher than before	108	93.8
	lower than before	0	0.0
Total			100.00

Table 11: Impact on Cost of Living

The causes behind these changes are price hikes, higher transportation fares, and the higher price of medicines with rising health risks and diseases. Due to low farming, the materialistic requirements have increased, creating the need to buy all kinds of stuff, increasing the cost of living. Moreover, 98.8% of the host people said that the increasing price of goods in the local market adds more trouble to their lives. The causes behind the higher prices include pressures on the remaining specific amount of stuff, scarcity of some goods, higher demand, and lower availability.

6.2.5 Trade and Business Activities:

78.1% of the host people responded in the affirmative regarding the changes in the trade and business activities, and 21% said seeing no mention-worthy changes in business. The respondents have also mentioned the causes behind these changes. Some people have experienced more opportunities to generate income and were provided with better livelihoods through trading with refugees in the camp. A negative impact on business has also been reported as business people lose their profit.

7. Conclusion and Recommendations:

The impact of establishing refugee camps and displaced populations on host communities is complex and has several possible outcomes (Alix-

Garcia & Saah, 2010; Chambers, 1986; Grindheim, 2013). Therefore, the Rohingya refugee influx and the resulting crisis in the host communities are complex and primarily deleterious. The impoverished community of Ukhiya has experienced several impacts during the recent influx and hosting of refugees. Eventually, a new dimension of social inequality with an increased poverty line of the poor group has been identified in the localities near the camps due to the economic ups and downs (Islam & Faisal, 2024). Overall, this research argues that the host communities have experienced more negative impacts. Therefore, solutions for these issues can be found by limiting the undesirable impacts on the host community. Uddin & Nesa (2021) stated that if the majority of displaced Rohingyas could not be moved back to their homeland, Bangladesh's economy would have to confront certain economic challenges. Accordingly, the unemployment rate might be higher than ever. Based on the findings and respondents' opinions in the current study, some crucial recommendations may be pointed out below:

- i) A safe, dignified, and voluntary repatriation based on international policies and supervision would better solve the prolonged refugee crisis, making lives easier for both host and refugee communities.
- ii) Some legal restrictions and procedures might be formulated to be followed by Rohingya displaced community so that local authority can maintain laws and regulations in the host area addressing security concerns.
- iii) Policies and planning should be executed regarding infrastructural development and sustainable solutions to the crisis. For example, livelihood integration for the refugees would be introduced for a peaceful coexistence.

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