UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

THE CHALLENGES OF FORCED MIGRATION:

THE ROHINGYA EXODUS TO BANGLADESH

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ABSTRACT

The Rohingyas of Myanmar are a vulnerable group, and arguably, the most persecuted minority in the world today. The cause of their sufferings are in the hands of Myanmar authorities themselves, which uses large scale fear tactics and brutal violence against the Rohingyas. By doing so, the Rohingyas' lives are threatened, thus, they are forced to leave Myanmar to find refuge somewhere else. The forced migration of Myanmar's Rohingyas has caused a great concern for the region and countries in close proximity to Myanmar, especially, Bangladesh. Although, this issue has been going on for quite some time, it was not until late 2017, all attention was on the Rohingyas fleeing persecution. The main destination was Bangladesh, a small densely populated country, that is projected to economically grow steadily in the coming years. However, with the massive influx of the Rohingya refugees coming into Bangladesh, it creates certain issues and challenges that could be detrimental to Bangladesh as a country and to its people. As a developing country with its own macro and micro issues, Bangladesh is overwhelmed by the numbers of Rohingyas coming in. As such this study was aimed at identifying and discussing the challenges Bangladesh has in regards to managing these refugees. Also, the objectives of this study are to provide insight into the implications of a protracted refugee crisis on the host country. In line with that, this study found that there are various multifaceted challenges and impacts Bangladesh faces when dealing with the Rohingya crisis.

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CHAPTER 1
INTRODUCTION

The first chapter discusses, the background of the issue, which includes Myanmar-Bangladesh state relations, the emergence of Rohingyas in Myanmar and a timeline of the Rohingya crisis. Also, this chapter explains the problem statement, in order to better understand the problems with the issue, thus the need to conduct this study. After which, there is an explanation of the research questions and objectives, as well as the scope, significance, limitation, and recommendations of the study.

1.1 Introduction

The issue of forced migration and refugees is not uncommon to be the cause of conflict and instability of the recipient country or destination. Therefore, forced migration and refugees are then seen as having significance in understanding the behavior of the international community (Wardhani, 2012). Forced migration issues are a juxtaposition between security as well as ethics. When a country puts ethics in response to forced migration issues, sometimes the security side of the host country will be disturbed. Similarly, when the state sees the issue of forced migration as a necessary thing to be securitized, it often raises questions about moral responsibility as well as the ethics of the recipient country.

Melissa Lane, Professor of Politics at Princeton University, reveals that in a normative perspective ethical issues will not arise when 'irresistible forces meet immovable ideas'. What Lane means here is that immigration is an 'irresistible force' which will not be an issue when 'immovable ideas' (sovereignty, democracy, and nationality) is not a problem for the state (Lane, n.d). It is noted that the flow of forced migration occurs not driven by economic motives as seen in some migrations, but due to unbearable situations faced by those forcibly displacement. Consequently, Rohingyas migrated to Bangladesh because of the expulsions as a form of ethnic cleansing by the Myanmar government against them.

In addition to its close proximity and ethnic and religious commonality, the Bangladeshi government also feels morally responsible to help the Myanmar Rohingyas, thus, several efforts have been to assist the vulnerable Rohingya refugees such as the