

Research Article

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**DIFFICULTIES FACED BY WOMEN ASYLUM-SEEKERS IN TURKEY:
CASE OF BATMAN****TÜRKİYE'DE SIĞINMACI KADINLARIN KARŞILAŞTIKLARI GÜÇLÜKLER:
BATMAN ÖRNEĞİ**

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this study is the examination of the difficulties encountered by Syrian women protected under the Temporary Protection Regulation in the case of Batman (Turkey) province. This study was based on the general screening model to determine the difficulties faced by female asylum-seekers. The universe of the research consists of the Syrian Women living in the provincial centre of Batman under temporary protection status. Snowball sampling method is used in the direction of the research purpose. Interviews were conducted with 301 female asylum seekers who agreed to participate in the study. 97.7 per cent of the women had a temporary protection document, 13 per cent had applied and were in the process of obtaining one, and 1 per cent did not have a temporary protection document. It was found that 76.7 per cent of the women had not received any in-kind and/or cash aid from the government, foundation institutions etc. and 23.3 per cent of the women had received such assistance. 55.5 per cent of the women want to go back to their country when the war ends and 44.5 per cent do not want to return.

Keywords: Temporary protection, asylum-seeker, social work, community pressure, gender, social exclusion

ÖZ

Amaç: Geçici Koruma Yönetmeliği kapsamında korunan Suriyeli kadınların karşılaştıkları güçlüklerin Batman ili örneğinde incelenmesidir. Yöntem: Bu çalışmada kadın mültecilerin karşılaştıkları güçlükleri belirlemeye yönelik olarak genel tarama modelini esas almıştır. Araştırmanın evreni, Batman il merkezinde yaşayan geçici barınma statüsündeki Suriyeli kadınlardan oluşmaktadır. Araştırmanın amacı doğrultusunda kartopu örnekleme yöntemi kullanılmıştır. Çalışmaya katılmayı kabul eden 301 kadın ile görüşme gerçekleştirilmiştir. Bulgular: Araştırmaya katılan kadınların geçici koruma belgesi edinme durumlarına ilişkin dağılıma bakıldığında, %97.7'sinin geçici koruma belgesinin olduğu, %13'ünün sürecinin devam ettiği, %1'nin geçici koruma belgesinin olmadığı saptanmıştır. Kadınların %76.7'sinin devlet, vakıf vb. kurum-kuruluşlardan aynı ve/veya nakdi yardım yardım almadığı, %23.3'ünün de yardım aldığı tespit edilmiştir. Kadınların %55.5'inin savaşın bitmesi halinde ülkesine geri dönmek istediği, %44.5'inin de geri dönmek istemediği belirlenmiştir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Geçici koruma, sığınmacı, sosyal hizmet, toplum baskısı, toplumsal cinsiyet.

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1. INTRODUCTION

This study, within the scope of the social work, aims to reveal the difficulties female Syrian refugees that live under the temporary protection status face, to shed light on the problems that attract the attention of society, the government and the NGOs that work on this topic, and to create awareness about this issue.

The concepts asylum-seeker, refugee, temporary protection, and migrant, however interchangeably they are often used, in fact have legally and academically different meanings. The definition of 'refugee' does not cover individuals or groups of people who leave their country only because of war or other civil disturbance, famine, natural disasters or in order to seek a better life (Phillips, 2011). The terms "refugee", "asylum-seeker" and "migrant" are often used interchangeably but it is important to distinguish between them as there is a legal difference (Amnesty, 2018). In this study, the concept of asylum-seekers and temporary protection is discussed.

Asylum-seekers are people who enter a country without legal documents, or whose documents expire once they have arrived and who claim refugee status (Nash and Trlin, 2004). Alternatively, "an asylum-seeker is a person who has asked for protection but has not received a decision on their application to become a refugee, or is waiting for the outcome of an appeal or an asylum-seeker is a person who has crossed an international border in search of safety and applies to be given refugee status under the 1951 UN Convention (UNHCR,1951). Temporary protection can be supplied to foreigners who are forced to leave their country, cannot return to the country where they left, come or pass our borders aggregately for the purpose of finding urgent and temporary protection (LAW, 6458).

The unfolding refugee crisis represents the worst post Second World War humanitarian crisis and largest movement of refugees (SCIE, 2015). Today, migration movements have political, economic, social and cultural dimensions and are actively discussed and debated in all geographies where globalization is felt, not only in the countries that receive the migration. Human movements, because they have such a profound effect on the societies that accept them, have become the main determinants of international relations and politics (Turkish Ministry of Interior, 2016).

According to The United Nations Human Rights Council, the forcibly displaced population increased in 2017 by 2.9 million and 68.5 million people were forcibly displaced worldwide as a result of conflict persecutions, wars, or generalized violence. Of the 68.5 million forcibly displaced people, 25.4 million refugees, mandate, 19.9 million refugees under UHRC (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees)'s, and 3.1 million were asylum-seekers (UNHRC, 2017).

As a result of the civil war in Syria, ongoing since 2011, asylum-seekers have flocked to neighbouring countries (especially Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq) as well as Europe (Greece, Austria, Italy, Germany, and others). Between 2014 and 2017 alone, the number of such Syrian asylum seekers reached nearly six million people.

Syrians have migrated to Turkey, Lebanon, Iraq and Jordan primarily because these countries share borders with Syria and they readily accept these migrants. However, as can be seen from written and visual media, many of the Syrians in these countries wish to migrate to other countries with higher economic and employment opportunities and better standards of living.

According to the UNHRC Report (2017) over 105,000 refugees and migrants entered Europe and over 2,290 are thought to have died along land and sea routes while undertaking the dangerous journeys (UNHRC, 2017). Thousands of migrants risk their lives to try to reach Europe from the opposite shores, and many of them die in the process (Freedman, 2015).

On the other hand, the majority of Syrian migrants have stayed and resided in different regions of Turkey because European countries closed their borders and have not accepted refugees and asylum-seekers since 2017. Beyond not being able to leave, Syrian refugees also stay in Turkey because of the common culture, relationships with relatives, and because they do not feel alienated.

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While there are total 5,636,302 registered Syrian asylum seekers in need of international protection worldwide, the largest portion of this population is being hosted in Turkey. As of March 7, 2019, The Turkish Interior Ministry's General Directorate of Migration Administration has received a total of 3,644,342 Syrian asylum-seekers and has registered them according to their biometric data. 1,977,150 of them are men and 1,667,192 are women. In addition, 142,676 of them live in camps, while 3,501,666 of them live elsewhere (Turkish Ministry of Interior, 2019).

Syrians living under temporary protection reside all throughout Turkey. It is believed that they encounter problems such as unemployment, finding accommodation, feelings of strangeness, lack of language, lack of skill, anxiety of exclusion, education and health in the areas where they reside.

Since the year 2011, applications to Europe have been made by asylum-seekers in Turkey and their number has exceeded one million. The 28 Member States of the European Union (EU) granted protection status to 538,000 asylum-seekers in 2017, and the largest group of beneficiaries of protection status in the EU in 2017 remained citizens of Syria (175,800 persons, or 33 % of the total number of persons granted protection status in the EU Member States), followed by citizens of Afghanistan (100,700 or 19%) and those of Iraq (64,300 or 12 %) (Eurostat, 2017). However, the number of asylum-seekers in Turkey is 3,644,342. Nominally, the number of asylum-seekers in Turkey is 7 times the size of those in the European Union (Turkish Ministry of Interior, 2019).

2. LEGISLATION FOR REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS IN TURKEY

The 1951 Geneva Convention is the key legal document and has been ratified by 145 State parties. It defines the term 'refugee' and outlines the rights of the displaced, as well as the legal obligations of states to protect them (UNHRC, 1951). Turkey has ratified the 1951 Refugee Convention and acceded to the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees. However, since ratification, Turkey has maintained the geographical reservation to the application of these treaties, with the effect that "Turkey does not extend refugee status to persons fleeing conflicts or other situations outside Europe" (Doğar, 2017; Bidinger et al., 2015).

The first general refugee policy in Turkey was created by Regulation No. 1994/6169 on the Procedures and Principles related to Population Movements and Aliens Arriving in Turkey (Regulation, 6169). The 1994 Regulation was replaced by the Temporary Protection Regulation that came into force in October 2014, following the entry into force of the new Turkish Law on Foreigners and International Protection (LAW, 6458).

Even though Turkey is a signatory to the Geneva Convention, it does not grant refugee status to those applying from outside the United States and Europe due to the geographical reservation. Temporary protection status is applied for this purpose. According to Article 91 of Law No. 6458, "Temporary protection can be supplied to foreigners who are forced to leave their country, cannot return to the country where they left, come or pass our borders aggregately for the purpose of finding urgent and temporary protection." (LAW, 6458).

Syrian asylum-seekers are subject to a special "temporary protection regime" and do not fall under the normal procedures established for non-European asylum-seekers (Özden, 2013). The "Temporary Protection Regulation", which also includes the Syrians, was published in the Official Newspaper dated 22 October, 2014 and numbered 29153 and it entered into force (Regulation, 6883).

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Temporary protection is protection provided to foreigners forced to leave their country, cannot return to the country they left, come to our borders aggregately for the purpose of finding urgent and temporary protection, come or pass the borders of Turkey individually in the cycle of aggregate movement and for whom an international protection request cannot be taken individually (LAW, 6458). Regulations define the scope of "Temporary Protection", the rights and obligations of people who will be evaluated within this scope, the registration process, other determinative criteria regarding staying in the country, and limitations that may be applied to the rights of people falling under this status. This regulation is especially important in terms of determining the rights and obligations of the Syrians.

The provinces where they reside provide such services to such asylum-seekers as medical services, education, access to labor market, social aid and services, interpretership and similar services (Turkish Ministry of Interior, 2016).

Although approximately half of the remaining asylum-seekers in Turkey are women, these women shoulder more of the burden than male asylum-seekers, as women take on the majority of the responsibility of supporting their families, and raising the children that make up a large part of the Syrian population in Turkey. Below, the problems and difficulties encountered by women Syrian asylum-seekers are addressed.

2.1. Difficulties (Psycho-social and Economic) Faced By Female Asylum-Seekers

According to the United Nations (UN), gender differences also evince themselves during war and women face many problems that men in war do not, such as violence, domestic violence, sexual abuse, early marriage, or unwanted pregnancies. According to the United Nations' data, 70 % of the world's refugees are women and children (UNHRC, 2017).

Being an asylum-seeker or refugee and also being a woman asylum-seeker is even more difficult for disadvantaged populations. The problems faced by asylum-seekers and the difficulties that arise due to these problems are characteristic of a very different reality. Such serious problems include hindrances in the supply of basic physiological requirements (such as accommodation, nutrition, dressing, health), education, and employment, the experience of social exclusion, or a lack of security.

According to statistics from the Ministry of the Interior Immigration Administration, 3,644,342 Syrians in Turkey are under temporary protection (Turkish Ministry of Interior, 2019). Therefore, those who stay out of the camps need to supply their housing requirements on their own. Asylum-seekers not in the camps are forced to continue their lives in a place that is proportional to income. Due to migration, many families prefer to live together to be able to afford the rent (Karaca & Doğan, 2014). The vast majority of apartment dwellers prefer basements as there the rent is cheaper. The majority of these houses have heating and humidity problems. They try to procure some of their household needs from their neighbors and some from charity associations (Karataştan, 2017). Some shopkeepers allow their families to stay in their shops at night (Kaya & Kırac, 2016).

Migrant women face marriage and pregnancy at an early age. In particular, it is seen that asylum-seekers from Syria become pregnant at very short intervals because they do not resort to protection methods (Karaca & Doğan, 2014). Reasons such as having a large number of children, not choosing family planning methods, being willing to have boys, approving early marriage as normal, and polygamy, affect women's health negatively (Gümüş et al., 2017). The woman who was abused in the place she migrated to cannot complain because she does not know her rights. Unwanted pregnancies, depression, and sexually transmitted diseases are among the problems women will experience (Deniz, 2014). On January 17, 2018, Hürriyet Newspaper stated that 115 children in Turkey under the age of 18 were pregnant, of which 39 were Syrian. Despite the fact that it is "compulsory" to report such cases to the police, these had not been (Hürriyet Newspaper, 2018).

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One of the most important difficulties that Syrian women asylum-seekers face is unemployment. Until 2014, no official work permit was granted to them. However, according to Article 29 of the "Provisional Protection Regulation" published in the Official Newspaper dated 22 October, 2014 and numbered 29153, official work permits were granted (Regulation, 6883; Regulation, 8375).⁴² But it appears that many Syrians have been employed at very low rates without a working permit. Because the Syrians who do not have a residence permit work as day workers and seasonal workers in the fields, and because employers want cheaper labor, they are not interested in working permission (Regulation, 6873). Local people are also disturbed because of the competition that this cheap labor gives them. Most people are worried about losing their jobs (Erdoğan, 2015). The Syrian asylum seekers, who do not know that they have a right to work, acquiesce to low wages in order to earn enough money to survive (Koyuncu, 2014).

The two groups (those working in the agriculture sector and those working elsewhere) with very different income levels have also different expectations. While people at a lower income level simply want a job to survive, people with higher income levels are more likely to live in better conditions and even settle in western countries after a while. Syrians who have started businesses usually prefer to employ Syrians (Lordoğlu & Aslan, 2016).

Child laborers are much preferred because they work at lower wages than adults. Children are mainly employed in textiles, workshops and in day work (Kaya & Kırac, 2016). The low level of family income causes children to be employed if adults cannot find work. Children who lose their fathers in battle tend to work because they see themselves as the headman of the family (Harunoğulları, 2016).

Economically, asylum-seekers can be listed as cheap labor and illegal workers in agriculture, industry and small businesses. Most of those who lost their jobs believed that they "lost their jobs because they were Syrian (Ercoşkun, 2015). It may cause them to be reluctant to give rented houses or jobs because the Syrians are seen as threats to employment for local people. Because of such social, cultural, political, ethnic, religious reasons it is unavoidable that Syrian women asylum seekers are faced with neighborhood pressure. It is believed that such local women see them as competitors and a threat, seeing them as people who take their jobs from their hands. These factors lead to the social exclusion of Syrian women asylum-seekers, faced with neighborhood pressure, a constant sense of strangeness and most importantly facing the difficulties of being a woman.

As a result of Nasirova's work, conditional refugees chiefly expect not to be prejudiced by local people and for the locals to respect their culture. This serves as proof of their social exclusion (Nasirova, 2014).

Approaches against asylum-seekers should be based on the "rights-based approach", which is the most basic principle of social work in the occupational intervention with asylum-seekers. It is necessary to act with an approach based on the understanding that they are human before all else and that everything that is right for other people is also right for them. The range of social work interventions with refugees and asylum-seekers is varied and demands the application and acquisition of key knowledge and skills. Discrimination, stigma and disadvantage are rife when dealing with asylum-seekers, refugee groups and minority ethnic groups (Solomos & Beck, 1996; Gordon, 1992).

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3. METHODOLOGY

3.1. The Aim of Study

It is difficult to be an asylum-seeker or refugee, but it is more difficult to be a woman asylum-seeker or refugee. In addition to the difficulties of being a woman, the difficulties and troubles of asylants or refugees double their burden. In addition, half of the asylum-seekers in Turkey are women. The objective determination of the difficulties and troubles faced by women asylum-seekers carrying such heavy burdens is the aim of the study. Beyond this, the determination of their needs and the strategies they employ to cope with the difficulties of their life may also serve as an objective resource for the support and assistance provided to them. The purpose of this study is to examine the difficulties faced by Syrian women asylum-seekers who are temporarily protected under the Provisional Protection Regulation in the case of Batman province located in the south east of Turkey. This study was carried out based on the general screening model in order to be able to determine the difficulties faced by women asylum-seekers.

3.2. Sample Design

The universe of the research consists of Syrian female asylum-seekers who live under temporary accommodation status in Batman province centre. The exact number of the universe is unknown. For this reason, sampling was used because it is difficult to reach the entire universe. In the snowball sampling method, one of the randomly chosen units is contacted first. With the aid of the contact unit it is passed to the second unit and the second unit is transferred to the third unit with the help of the second unit. In this way, as the size of a sample increases, the size of a sample expands (Yazıcıoğlu & Erdoğan, 2004; Yıldırım & Şimşek, 2005).

In this case, the researcher interviews several people who are eligible to enter the sample and collects information about other people who are deemed similarly appropriate. It was determined that the participation of 383 individuals would be sufficient to work according to the calculation of the sample size. Approximately 900 interviews were held with female asylum-seekers for the purpose of the research. However, interviews were held with 301 women who agreed to participate in the study. Some women who did not agree to participate in the study expressed fears such as their assistance being cut off and being embarrassed, and some did not specify any reason.

3.3. Data Collection Tools and Techniques

An interview form (questionnaire) was prepared which questioned the difficulties encountered by female participants in the survey. The prepared interview form consists of three parts. The first part asked participants for socio-demographic information (age, gender, marital status, languages, number of children, etc.). The second part elicited participants' opinions about education, health, housing, finances, social exclusion and communication difficulties. In the third part, they were asked open questions about other difficulties that they experienced. In addition, the participants' were encouraged to make general recommendations and their responses were classified.

3.4. Data Collection Process

After the approval of the ethics committee, the researchers reached out to the female participants within the universe, and the interview forms were completed by the interviewers via the interpreter. Translation assistance was obtained from a volunteer psychologist and social worker who speaks Arabic, Kurdish and English and who lives in Batman province. In order

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to ensure healthy data collection during the process and that the participants gave more sincere responses, the purpose of the participant's investigation was clarified before the interview form was implemented and interviews were held after informed consent was obtained. Of the 900 participants interviewed in the direction of the survey, 301 agreed to accept the interview and fill in the interview form. The data of the study were collected between November 2017 and January 2018.

3.5. Analysis of Data

The interview form was used as a data collection tool in the research. After the data had been adjusted to suit the purpose, the database was created in the SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Sciences) 20.0 program which was used in the study and analyses were carried out by the academic advisor after the data were transferred. In the analysis of the data obtained within the scope of the research, some socio-demographic characteristics of the participants were taken into account and statistical analyses were made comparatively on the basis of chi-square, correlation analysis, frequency distributions, average, per cent, and cross tables.

4. FINDINGS

4.1. Socio-demographics Results

In this survey, 301 female asylum-seekers agreed to participate and 40.2 % of them were in the age range of 18-25 years, 27.6 % were in the age of 26-35, 15.6 % were in the age range of 36-45, 13.0 % of them 46-55, and 3.70 % in the age range 56 and over. The average age of the participants was 32; the youngest was 18 and the oldest 84. 47.2 % of asylum-seekers can speak Arabic, 40.2 % can speak Kurdish, 12.4 % can speak Turkish and 0.2 % can speak Farsi. Namely, Syrian women asylum-seekers can speak multiple languages and it is determined that the mother language of 73.8 % of the women is Kurdish, 25.9 % Arabic and 0.3 % Farsi.

39.5 % of female asylum-seekers graduated from secondary school, 18.3 % graduated from high school, 16.6 % graduated from primary school and 11.3 % graduated from university; however 13.3 % are not literate and 1 % of them are literate but have no diploma. In AFAD's (Disaster And Emergency Management Presidency) study (2014), it was established that 37 % of the Syrians living in the camps and 33 % of those living outside the camps were primary school graduates.

83.7% of married female asylum-seekers have had both official and religious marriages; however 16.3 % of them only have had a religious marriage, a practice which arises from the belief that both religious and official marriage must be together in Islamic societies. When the marriage pattern is compared with the education status, it can be seen that only those who have religious marriages and those who have both religious and official marriages are primary and secondary school graduates.

It is determined that 97.7 % of women asylum-seekers have a temporary protection document, 13 % of them are at some point in the process of obtaining the document, and 1 % of them do not have a temporary protection document. Almost all women who participated in this research study have temporary protection identity documents provided by the Republic of Turkey.

81.4 % of female asylum-seekers have relatives in Turkey, leaving 18.6 % with none. The reason for the high percentage of participants with relatives in Turkey is likely due to Syria's history of inclusion in the Ottoman sphere of influence and the simple fact that the majority of the people living in the geographical region of the Middle East are Muslim. Furthermore, the First World War led to relatives living separately in both countries by the Turkey-Syrian border. It is believed that the reason why there is such a high number of relatives in Syria is Batman province's proximity to the border of Syria.

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4.2. Economic Difficulties

76.7 % of women asylum-seekers do not receive cash aid from institutions such as the state or foundations, while 23.3 % of them are receiving aid. 83.1 % of asylum-seekers who do not receive aid from institutions such as state and foundation have relatives in Turkey, 16.9 % of them do not. 75.7 % of asylum-seekers who receive aid have relatives in Turkey, whereas 24.3 % of them do not have relatives. It is supposed that the reason that women do not get help can be that the majority of them have relatives from whom they can get aid.

88.4 % of women asylum-seekers face economic troubles, while 11.6 % of them do not report such a problem. In 61.1 % of asylum-seekers' families, 1 member Works; in 31.9 % of them 2 members work; in 5.6 %, 3 members work and in 1.3 % of them, 4 members work. According to these data, the majority of women face economic troubles. 92.6 % of them who do not get aid from institutions such as governments and foundations (76.7 %) face economic troubles; however, 7.4 % of them do not face such economic troubles. Furthermore, 74.3 % of those who get aid from institutions such as governments and foundations have financial difficulties; however 25.7 % of them do not. Additionally, despite the fact that women receive help from relatives and institutions such as governments and foundations, it is believed that economic difficulties for women can arise from inadequate aid, insufficient to cover the requirements of families.

96.7 % of women have difficulties finding a job, and 3.3 % of them do not have one. Namely, almost all of the women have difficulties finding a job. It has been observed that 29.8 % of household livelihoods are provided by women, 29.1 % by the husband, 11.7 % by the mother, 11.5 % by the father, 5.3 % by a brother, 5 % by a son, 4.1 % by a sister and 2.5 % by a daughter. As written and visual media inform, the majority of women were not accompanied by their husband when they ran away from the civil war in Syria because he fought and died in the war. Therefore, supporting the family has become primarily the role of the woman, as reported by the study participants. Moreover, 58 % of the women were found to have trouble supporting the household because their rent was high, and 42 % were unable to live because their working fees were low.

4.3. Educational Difficulties

It is determined that 62.6 % women's children go to school; however 37.4 % of them do not go to school. It is believed that the reasons for their not attending school can be the need for the children to support the family income, the fact that children do not want to school, the lack of opportunity to go to school, language problems, or women's literacy problems in Turkish.

It is seen that 73.2 % of women asylum-seekers can benefit from educational opportunities efficiently in the area where they live; however 26.8 % of them cannot obtain easy access. Women indicated educational problems that they faced: 28.3 % of them said teachers do not pay much attention to children; 28.3 % of them said children have difficulties because of not knowing Turkish; 22.8 % of them indicate that they can not send their children to school because of financial difficulties and 20.7 % of them indicate that they cannot help their children because of their own low education level.

In addition, it is seen that the lack of interest of teachers is an another important education problem that Syrian women face. When Syrian children are thought to not be able to speak Turkish, teachers need to be more patient and concerned to avoid communication problems when children begin to school and they need time to learn Turkish.

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4.4. Health Difficulties

However, it is identified that 97.3 % of women asylum-seekers do not have social assurance, 2.7 % of them do; 78.7 % of women asylum-seekers and their families can not benefit effectively from health services in place where they live, 21.3 % of them do; as for the reasons why women themselves and their families could not benefit from health services, it is seen that 65.5 % of them can not benefit because of not knowing the language, 20.9 % of them can not benefit due to fear of discrimination, 6.8 % of them do not benefit because of needless, 4.5 % of them cannot benefit because of financial difficulties and 2.3 % of them cannot benefit because of access difficulty and distance; 79.4 % of them can make emergency health examinations, 20.6 % of them cannot.

4.5. Housing Difficulties

It is identified that 96.3 % of female asylum-seekers who participated in this research live in a rented house, 2 % live with their relatives, 1 % of them live in their own house and 0.7 % of them do not pay any fees as the landlord does not require it from the. It is reported that 91 % of houses where women live are heated with stove and 9 % of them are heated with central heating. Despite there being natural gas in Batman province centre, the great majority of asylum-seekers heat their houses with stoves. Likely as a consequence of economic troubles, they can not stay in houses with central heating, as rented houses with central heating have higher heating costs and higher rent. For these reasons, staying in a house that is heated with a stove arises from a compulsory choice for asylum-seekers.

Table 1. The other housing difficulties

The other housing difficulties	<i>n</i>	%
Heating problem	193	24.2
Facing diseases constantly related to warming	155	19.5
House where we live does not get sunlight inside (airless)	99	12.4
Cannot buy coal-wood	94	11.8
We have trouble with the landlord because we have difficulty in paying our rent	76	9.5
House smells of moisture and humidity	70	8.8
The house that we live in is very small and we cannot fit into it	47	5.9
We are struggling to find a home because we are Syrian	31	3.9
The place we're staying is not a place where a person can live	27	3.4
We cannot find a place to stay	3	0.4
We do not stay at home, we live in the street	1	0.1
Total	798	100.0

* More than one option marked.

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They face major problems such as not being able to heat the house due to heating with stove, freezing and sickness due to an inability to warm the house, not being able to buy the wood and coal required for heating due to economic difficulties, the house being damp due to a lack of sunlight, the difficulties of having a small house and having problems with their landlord because of not being able to pay the house rent as well as coping with troubles caused by these problems (Table 1).

4.6. Social Exclusion Difficulties

It has been identified that 93 % of women who participate in the research and their families were not exposed to sexual abuse, 7 % of them were; 87.7 % of women who participated in the research and their families have not been exposed to any physical violence, 12.3 % of them have been. Out of 37 % women who were exposed to physical violence, 14 % of them are secondary school graduates, 13 % of them are primary school graduates, 5 % of them are not literate and 1 % person are postgraduates. It is determined that 69.8 % of women have not been exposed to verbal violence; however 30.2 % of them have.

It is reported that 39.5 % of women who were exposed to verbal violence are secondary school graduates, 18.3 % of them are high school graduates, 16.6 % of them are primary school graduates, 13.3 % of them are not literate, 11.3 % of them are postgraduate. and 1 % of them are literate but do not have a diploma. Namely, the majority of those who are exposed to violence are women with a low level of education. According to the correlation analysis, there was also a significant relationship between the groups. There is a linear relationship between the level of education and physical suffering in the positive direction. In other words, as the level of education increases, the level of violence decreases and as the level of education decreases, the level of violence increases.

Table 2. Some Opinion of women asylum-seekers about

Belonging to Turkey	<i>n</i>	%
No	187	62.1
Yes	114	37.9
Pressure from the community		
No	237	78.7
Yes	64	21.3
Facing with the challenges of being a woman		
Yes	288	96.0
No	12	4.0
Satisfaction status		
Not satisfied	153	50.8
Satisfied	148	49.2
Want to return		
Yes	167	55.5
No	134	44.5
Total	301	100.0

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It is identified that 62.1 % of women do not feel that they belong to Turkey; however 37.9 % of them feel they do (Table 2). 75.4 % of them who do not feel that they belong to Turkey have relatives in Turkey, and 24.6 % of them do not. 91.2 % of them who feel themselves belonging to Turkey have relatives in Turkey, 8.8 % of them do not. Although three-quarters of those who feel themselves belonging to Turkey have relatives in Turkey, they do not feel themselves belonging to this land. There is a Turkish proverb related to this: "They put a nightingale in a golden cage, nevertheless it said ouch my native shore ouch my home". Everyone feels free and peaceful in their own home. Outside one experiences social pressures and discomfort.

78.7 % of women asylum-seekers do not feel pressure from the community, however 21.3 % of them do (Table 2). Namely, one-fifth of women in this study feel pressure from the settlement and neighborhood where they live: however four out of five of them do not feel neighborhood pressure. This can result from their being foreign, asylum-seekers, or refugees, their increasing unemployment rate, or their willingness to work in low paying jobs. Neighborhood pressure is a kind of social exclusion.

It has been identified that 96 % of women asylum-seekers face challenges related to being a woman and only 4 % of them do not face challenges related to their womanness (Table 2). Almost all women who participated in this research encounter troubles, difficulties and distresses related to being a woman. It is considered that such gender inequality, being foreign, being poor, and living in deprivation lead to these distresses. In short, this conclusion emerges as the most concrete evidence of gender inequality against women. Otherwise, when one investigates instances of difficulty in renting a house among these women asylum-seekers, 99 % of them have difficulties, and 1 % do not. It has been identified that almost all of the women who participated in the research face difficulties because they are exposed to discrimination related to renting a house because they are female asylum-seekers.

When participants' satisfaction with being in Turkey are examined, 50.8 % of them are not satisfied, and 49.2 % of them are satisfied to be in Turkey (Table 2). It has been identified that 78.6 % of Syrian asylum-seekers who do not feel themselves belonging to Turkey are not satisfied in Turkey and 21.4 % of them are satisfied. Moreover, it is detected that 94.7 % of those who feel themselves belonging to Turkey are satisfied to stay in Turkey and 5.3 % of them are not satisfied. In other words, when the majority of asylum-seekers who are satisfied to be in Turkey feel themselves belonging to Turkey, four of five of those who are unsatisfied do not feel themselves belonging to Turkey. It has been identified that 59.4 % of women who feel neighborhood pressure are satisfied to stay in Turkey, and 40.6 % of them are unsatisfied. It was determined that 51.5 % of those who do not feel neighborhood pressure are satisfied to stay in Turkey, and 48.5 % of them are unsatisfied to stay in Turkey.

It has been identified that 55.5 % of Syrian women asylum-seekers would like to return to their country when the war ends, while 44.5 % of them would not (Table 2). More than half of the Syrian women asylum-seekers would like to return to their country if the civil war were over, whereas close to half of them would not. It may be that the reasons for the undesirability of returning home for nearly half of them arise from insecurities related to repatriation, anxiety of trial because of being a dissident, the possibility of not being able to find their homes in the conditions that they hope for, or their being destroyed or in unlivable conditions.

57 % of women asylum-seekers who do not feel pressure from their community would like to return to their country if the civil war were to finish in Syria, while 43 % of them would not. 50 % of those who feel such pressure would like to return and the other 50 % would not. In other words, approximately three out of five women asylum-seekers who do not feel such pressure want to go back to their country when the war in Syria is over. The other two out of five do not want to go back. Half of those who feel neighborhood pressure want to go back as well as the other half who do not.

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63.4 % of women asylum-seekers who are unsatisfied with life in Turkey would like to return to their country when the civil war is over in Syria, whereas 36.6 % of them would not. 47.3 % of women asylum-seekers who are satisfied staying in Turkey would like to return to their country and 52.2 % of them would not. In short, approximately three of five women asylum-seekers who are unsatisfied staying in Turkey would like to return to their country when the war in Syria is over, and the remaining two out of five would not like to return.

5. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Legal status associated with different migrant groups might play an important role in integration processes. For example, Syrians in Turkey are not legally referred to as 'refugees'; they are foreigners under temporary protection. In this sense, their integration processes might differ from those of refugees (Şimşek, 2018; Sözer, 2019).

The level of education of Syrian female asylum-seekers who participated in this study is very low and mainly at the primary and secondary school level. The majority of those married are made up of official and religious marriages, and a few are only religious marriages.

It has been determined that the majority of women asylum-seekers covered by this study are young people. It is known that the majority of Syrians under temporary protection status are women, children, and the elderly. In this group, the responsibility of supporting the household and taking care of the children and the elderly are shouldered by young women. It is revealed by the results of the study that most of these women have difficulties supporting their households, cannot find a job, and most of them do not get in-kind and/or financial aid from institutions such as the government or foundations. In this context, research and projects aimed at providing women with job opportunities should be developed.

Syrians who lack economic resources and are less skilled might not be granted citizenship and remain under temporary protection for along time (Şimşek, 2018). Almost all of the women have difficulties in finding a job and they often cannot. It is suggested that politicians and managers in the struggle against this reality, which reinforces gender inequality and removes women from economic life, should contribute to this by making more employment-oriented arrangements for women.

An important finding is that four in five female asylum-seekers have relatives in Turkey. The majority of women receive help from their relatives; however they do not receive help from institutions such as the government and foundations. Nonetheless, the vast majority of women who are helped by institutions such as the government and foundations and their relatives still suffer from economic hardships. Women are both suffering from an ability to find work and from economic hardships when they receive help. To this end, women need to be strengthened. The development of projects that will create employment opportunities for women will contribute to the resolution of these problems.

Among the women who participated in this research, three out of five of their children go to school and two out of five cannot go to school. Going to school – in a word, basic education – is the most natural right of every child and in Turkey, where education is compulsory, should be given free of charge. For this reason, education policies and practices should be developed by the Ministry of National Education for the purpose of ensuring that children who cannot go to school do go to school and that financial support be provided to the families of the children who continue to study.

When the reasons for the inability of Syrian women asylum-seekers to benefit from the educational opportunities are examined, it has been identified that women are not able to help their children because their education level is low, they experience financial difficulties and they are unable to send their children to school because of the difficulties arising from not knowing Turkish.

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Likewise, it is seen that the lack of interest among teachers is another important education problem that Syrian women face. When Syrian children are thought not to be able to speak Turkish, teachers need to be more patient and concerned to avoid communication problems, especially when children begin school. They need time to learn Turkish.

A new law to include Syrian children gradually as a part of the Turkish educational system was announced just at the beginning of the school year 2016/17 and the government decided to close temporary education centres (Sunata & Tosun, 2018).

It is an important determination that the vast majority of women do not benefit from health services and this arises from not knowing the language and anxiety about exposure to discrimination. It is seen that although there are no legal obstacles that prevent women from benefiting from health services, language problems, feeling like an outsider, and anxiety about exposure to discrimination hinder them. Studies should be carried out to resolve asylum-seekers' language problems and their anxiety about exposure to discrimination.

These women face major problems. They are often not able to heat their house because all they have is a stove, and report freezing and sickness due to this. They are often not able to buy the wood and coal required for heating due to a lack of economic resources, and their house is often damp because of lack of sunlight. They face the difficulty of having a small house and experiencing problems with their landlord because of not being able to pay the house rent as well as coping with troubles caused by these problems. These issues should be considered in aid to asylum-seekers. Nearly all women and their families live in rental houses. Besides, almost all of them have difficulty renting a house because they are asylum-seekers. Both unemployment and economic problems hinder their ability to provide for the household. To remedy this, in-kind and financial aid programs must be developed to cover their basic human needs.

Another important result that has been detected is that the majority of women and their relatives do not experience any sexual abuse. Despite this fact, some women do experience sexual abuse. Being a woman, being a child and being a refugee or asylum-seeker means being at risk.

It has been identified that the majority of women and/or their relatives do not suffer any physical violence and more than one-tenth of them are exposed to physical violence. Measures to prevent violence need to be intensified.

It is an important result that half of the Syrian women asylum-seekers are not satisfied to be in Turkey and the other half is unsatisfied to be in Turkey. The reason why the dissatisfaction rate is at this level is considered to be that they are foreign, asylum-seekers, women, experience economic deprivation, difficulties in renting a house, social exclusion, general difficulties of being a woman, and the sensation of neighborhood pressure factors. Activities aimed at strengthening efforts to remedy this need to be initiated.

Even though they are provided with certain rights such as legal protection, health care and education, the refugees still have problems in accessing these rights due to the language barrier, registration problems, transportation costs (Sunata & Tosun, 2018), economic problems, stigmatization, exclusion, and access to health care systems, among others.

This study's results not only show us Syrian female asylum-seekers have a number of difficulties, but also that they are the most vulnerable, they need more help and empowerment, and they need jobs and integration into Turkish society.

One-fifth of women feel pressure from the community in which they live, four in five does not. In addition, more than half of them would like to return to their country when the civil war is over and close to half of them would not like to. In this regard, encouraging policies and programs for return should be constituted. Syrian asylum-seekers have been staying in Turkey for approximately 7 years. In this regard, almost all other related fields outside of the social work discipline are confronted with a large number of scientific research conducted in the literature (YÖK- Turkish Higher Education Institution, thesis screening and other related databases).

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In the field of social work, which is based on people and their fundamental value, different disciplines have become dominant and the need for social work has been replaced by other professional interventions because of not being able to show any demonstrable value in our work with refugees. In this regard, social service professionals and academics should strive to work urgently, engage in scientific work, and claim their rightful place.

This study has some important limitations. It does not represent all the Syrian women asylum-seekers in Batman and Turkey. The study provides only a partial snapshot of the whole picture of Syrian asylum-seekers women, and as the interviews were conducted in Arabic, Kurdish and Turkish and translated into English, it is possible that the original message may have lost its immediacy and/or full meaning via translation.

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