

## The Analysis of Various Problems to Afghan Refugees in Repatriation Process from Pakistan

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### Abstract

Pakistan, the host of millions of Afghan refugees since the Soviet invasion, now seeks their speedy repatriation. The process has already started and it is one of the largest repatriation programs in the UNHCR's history. However, around 3 million Afghans still reside in Pakistan. This paper provides an overview of the underlying problems and multifaceted stumbling blocks being faced in the process and shed light on the future scenario and this research also examines what policy readjustments are required on part of Pakistan to make repatriation a success while keeping in views that a successful repatriation not only means the return of refugees but ensuring that they enter the mainstream of life-economically, politically, socially in their home country. For obtaining the Qualitative information a survey has been conducted of every refuges camp in District Dir Lower, KPK, and Pakistan. The data has been collected from 250 respondents through structured Questionnaire while using simple random sample technique and further the data has been proceeding through SPSS version 20, further classified, thoroughly analyzed and has been presented in the form of tables, frequency, percentages, and discussion over tables with the help of secondary information and a qualitative discussion has been made over the field data. The study found several issues that were faced by Afghan refugees living in different camps and villages of District Dir, KPK, Pakistan and their fear regarding repatriation. The common issues they faced in Pakistan were income/livelihood related, lack of proper shelter, and poor water supply facilities. The current research has revealed that if the government of Pakistan and the UNHCR want voluntary repatriation to succeed the conditions relating to security needed improvement, the availability of jobs in the receiving areas needed to expand and adequate facilities needed to be available in the education and the health fields.

### Keywords

Afghan • Refugees • Repatriation • Problems • Policy • Government

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**Received:** September 23, 2018

**Accepted:** December 29, 2018

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ISSN 2149-4398 • eISSN 2458-8962

Winter 2019 • 4(1) • 5-22

### **Background of the Study**

It was 1979 when former Soviet Union forces entered in Afghanistan. Afghan president Daoud was killed and Noor Mohammad Taraki named as president but when Taraki was killed Hafiz Ullah took in the presidency as he was executed, replaced by Babrak Kamal. Many forces in and outside Afghanistan opposed this intervention and started struggle against Soviet occupation. One of the results of this struggle was the mass migration of Afghans to neighboring countries. The number of Afghans migrated from Afghanistan to Pakistan reached to 2 million by the year 1979 to 1984. Mostly these Afghans were from rural areas of Afghanistan and after migration started living in different camps mainly in KPK and Baluchistan (UNHCR Report, 2005). The situation remained same as long as the Soviet Union was present in Afghanistan. In fact, the population of refugees increased to 2.4 million. In 1986 Najibullah was replaced by Babrak Kamal as the president of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union left Afghanistan in 1989. About 206,000 numbers of refugees had been returned to their country after the withdrawal of Soviet forces. Meanwhile, the mujahidin who had already opposed the intervention increased their struggle against Najibullah government that resulted in the fall of Najib's government in 1992 (Refugees Magazine, 1997). Mujahiddin took over Afghanistan and formed Islamic Council. This government was the result of a pact between various Mujahiddin leaders but it was not followed and war erupted again but this time among Mujahiddin leaders. The main rivals emerged during this conflict were Rabbani and Gulbadin Hikmatyar. They were fighting for the control of Kabul. On the other hand, various Mujahiddin leaders took charge of the land they controlled and consequently a civil war situation prevailed in Afghanistan. The arrival of Afghan migrants had started again but this time majority came from Kabul city (Lincoln & Omaha, 2005). Taliban militia emerged as a reaction to this anarchy and warlordism. This was a group of Pashtuns, mostly studied in madrasas or Islamic Schools. In 1994 they captured Kandahar and enforced Islamic law or Shariah. In the meantime, they continued their expansion to the other areas and next year they captured Herat. Their advances continued to other areas and in September 1996 they captured Kabul and established their government and enforced Shariah that was strict for many both in and outside Afghanistan (Human Rights Watch, 2002). Again 133,546 populations left Afghanistan and came to Pakistan in order to avoid those strict rulers. In the meantime, Taliban enforced Islamic law strictly in all walks of life. Women and girls were not allowed to come out from their homes without emergency and also not allowed to go to schools, colleges etc. and were asked to use burqa or veil while coming out from their homes. A small number of countries including Pakistan recognized Taliban government in spite of this that whole world was against them. During this time in Afghanistan poverty raised, infrastructure devastated and starvation enhanced (UNHCR Report, 2005). Regarding repatriation UNHCR also reports that in 2003, 340,000 people returned to Afghanistan. As this process continued

some 350,000 in the 2004 and 450,000 in 2005 returned to Afghanistan, while UNHCR expected about 400,000 people will return to Afghanistan in 2006. However actual numbers of returnees this year were 132,000, which was less than the expected figure. The expected figure in 2007 is 250,000 but the actual return was 120000. Number of Afghan still in Pakistan are about 2.5 million who are still living in Pakistan and are not ready to leave it because of insecure living conditions, less working chances and many social problems in Afghanistan. (UNHCR Report, 2006).

Afghanistan has been home of crises throughout 21st century including horrific strikes of Russian forces and fighting with local mujahidin till 1988. But events of 9/11 brought colossal changes to the world and so to Afghanistan. NATO forces put an end to Taliban regime in 2001 and Afghanistan saw a new situation. The USA and other 43 other countries from the world invested billions of dollars for the sustainability of the country (Ijaz, 2005).

It is a fact that Pakistan bore the burden of massive refugee influxes as geographically it borders Afghanistan. Afghanistan has experienced many political changes since the Soviet withdrawal in February 1989, yet repatriation of millions of refugees from Pakistan has not been accomplished. Attempts have been made to repatriate the refugees many a time, but these were not successful as new influxes led to the continued presence of refugee population in Pakistan. The changing nature of the Afghan conflict has put stress on the Pakistani Government to permanently resolve the prolonged issue of refugees in Pakistan (Connor, 2016). Repatriation of Afghan refugees is a formidable task for any government in Pakistan due to the complicated and stressful nature of the process. Pakistan has the responsibility to serve a huge population of 180 million. Efforts have been made to repatriate the Afghan refugees under the 2002 Repatriation Program, but still, approximately 2 million Afghan Refugees remain in Pakistan who crossed the borders from 40 different locations in Afghanistan. Currently, the bulk of refugees in Pakistan are Pashtuns living within and outside the refugee camps in various parts of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Province. (Brown, & Williams, 2016).

### **Statement of the Problem**

Pakistan host of 1.5 million POR (Proof of Registration) card holders, the world's second-largest protracted refugee population in a single country under the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) mandate. In addition, according to Pakistani government estimates, one million undocumented Afghans are living in Pakistan (UNHCR Report, 2015). Those populations include many who fled conflict and repression in Afghanistan during the late 1970s and early 1980s, as well as their descendants. Some arrived

as children, grew up in Pakistan, married, and had children of their own who have never lived in Afghanistan. Others have arrived in the decades of turmoil in Afghanistan since, seeking security, employment, and a higher standard of living (Connor, 2015).

Afghans in Pakistan have experienced a sharp increase in hostility since the so-called Pakistani Taliban, Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan, attacked the Army Public School in Peshawar on December 16, 2014, killing 145 people, including 132 children. The Pakistani government responded to the attack with repressive measures, including the introduction of military courts to prosecute terrorism suspects, executions after the lifting of an unofficial moratorium on the use of the death penalty, and proposals to register and repatriate Afghans living in Pakistan (Turton & Marsden, 2002). On June 23, 2015, SAFRON Minister Baloch announced that there would be no official reprisals against the country's Afghan population in response to the Peshawar attack. Despite that promise, Pakistani police have pursued an unofficial policy of punitive retribution against Afghans that has included raids on Afghan settlements; detention, harassment, and physical violence against Afghans; extortion; and the demolition of Afghan homes (Daily Dawn Newspaper, 2017).

Such police abuses have prompted fearful Afghans to restrict their movements, leading to economic hardship and curtailing access to education and employment. This oppressive situation has also prompted large numbers of Afghans to return to Afghanistan, where they have faced a widening conflict and continuing insecurity. Deteriorating conditions in Afghanistan prompted more than 178,000 Afghans to register first-time asylum claims in the European Union in 2015 (Kunz, 2016). The return of Afghans uprooted by police abuses in Pakistan, where many have lived for decades, may add to the numbers of those seeking refuge in Europe as conditions in Afghanistan deteriorate. Pakistan hosted the Afghan refugees for the last three decades and still, a huge number of Afghan communities are residing in the different part of Pakistan (Gaston & Lillian, 2015). The study examined the issues and problems that are faced by the refugees while residing in Pakistan and those difficulties that they are likely to face after repatriation. The current study is also undertaken to analyze the different issues to Afghan refugees in their repatriations process to their home country as now living for them is very critical and they have no option without returning to their homeland. It is also a great and challenging task for Pakistani authorities, Afghan Govt and other Govt and non-governmental organizations to perform it in good manner and to live these people happy in their motherland.

## 1. Objectives of the Study

- **To find out the issues faced by Afghan Refugees in Pakistan**
- **To highlight the expected issues to Afghan Refugees in their home country Afghanistan**
- **To know about the prevailing situations in Afghanistan in the views of Afghan Refugees in Pakistan**

## Method and Procedure

### Purpose of the Study

The study was planned to find the perception of Afghan refugees regarding the Repatriation process and information about problems faced by Afghan refugees in Pakistan and their apprehension of what problems they might face during repatriation. A qualitative approach was adopted for the collection of basic information, which was based on a wide range of sources for data collection and subsequent analysis.

### The population of the Study

The Afghan refugees living in the district Dir Lower of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were the target population of this study. Majority of the population of this region is Pashtun. The District Dir lower of KPK, Pakistan is located in Malakand region and share borders with Afghanistan, Bajaur Agency, and District Swat and Malakand Agency. There are three Afghan Refugees camps in District Dir lower. The Refugees Camps where the study was conducted included Chakdara Refugees Camp, Timergara Refugees Camp, and Toor Qalla Refugees Camp and all the three camps were located in district Lower Dir, KPK, and Pakistan.

### History of Refugees Camps in The Targeted Area

When the former Soviet Union entered into Afghanistan and the peoples start the migration from Afghanistan due to war in 1979, mostly peoples enter into Pakistan and especially to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The peoples near to Pakistan border came to Bajaur Agency and District Lower Dir. The government of Pakistan establishes three major camps in District Dir

lower for refugees in that time and still exists these camps.

### **Sampling Approach**

The target area was divided into 3 main camps that are Chakdara, Timergara and Toor Camp. The data was collected from 280 respondents using simple random sample technique from targeted areas and were analyzed with the proportion of 36%, 34% and 30% for Chakdara, Timergara Toor Camp respectively.

### **Data Collection Instrument**

The data was collected through Questionnaire and Interview Schedule. For literate respondents researchers used Questionnaire and the illiterate were interviewed through interview Schedule.

### **Data Analysis**

The collected data were analyzed statistically. The data has been analyzed in the form of tables with frequency distribution and Percentage and detail discussion over made with the help of primary and secondary data on each table.

### **Results and Discussion of the Study**

Pakistan wants the return of over 3 million Afghan refugees that came to the country after the invasion of Afghanistan by the USSR. Pakistan has been carrying the burden of the Afghan refugees (over 3 million at its peak), that has added to its economic burden. Pakistan maintained a policy of temporary protection with the voluntary return as the preferred option; however, comprehensive repatriation was not in sight, as it remained hostage to official Afghan policy and the protracted fighting in that country. Even the end of cold war and demise of the Soviet Union did not bring a relief to this situation as the worsening civil war in Afghanistan discouraged the repatriation of refugees to their country (Rao & Turkstra, 2014).

Repatriation occurs when livelihood prospects and security improves in the home country unless ground realities improve as perceived by refugees themselves, the return is not preferred. The political and economic situation has still not improved to the extent to be an incentive for the return of all the refugees. Therefore, successful/comprehensive repatriation is still awaited. Refugee presence has been a major concern that has generated resentment from the local population. Many elements in Pakistan believe that Afghanistan refugees

would never really go back, even if the political situation improves. This assumption so far holds true despite partial repatriations (Bump, 2006). This research is an attempt to know about the different problems facing Afghan Refugees in Pakistan and expecting issues during the repatriation process to Afghanistan from Pakistan and also put forward some suggestions for successful repatriation process of Refugees. All these things have been discussed in the coming paragraphs in detail.

### Demographic Information of the Respondents

The demographic information contains gender, age, literacy level, monthly income, home districts of refugees in Afghanistan and current residency camp in district Dir lower, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan which is shown in the given table.

Table 1

#### *Demographic Information of the Respondents*

| <b>Demographic Information</b>       | <b>F</b>   | <b>%</b>   |
|--------------------------------------|------------|------------|
| <b>Gender of the Respondents</b>     |            |            |
| Male                                 | 250        | 100        |
| Female                               | 00         | 00         |
| <b>Total</b>                         | <b>250</b> | <b>100</b> |
| <b>Age of the Respondents</b>        |            |            |
| 18-21                                | 62         | 24.8       |
| 22-24                                | 130        | 52         |
| 25-27                                | 46         | 18.4       |
| Above                                | 22         | 8.8        |
| <b>Total</b>                         | <b>250</b> | <b>100</b> |
| <b>Literacy level</b>                |            |            |
| Literate                             | 160        | 64         |
| Illiterate                           | 90         | 36         |
| <b>Total</b>                         | <b>250</b> | <b>100</b> |
| <b>Monthly Income of Respondents</b> |            |            |
| 10,001-20,000                        | 58         | 23.2       |
| 20,001-30,000                        | 68         | 27.2       |
| 30,001-40,000                        | 76         | 30.4       |
| Above                                | 48         | 19.2       |
| <b>Total</b>                         | <b>250</b> | <b>100</b> |

| <b>Home District of Refugees</b>           |            |            |
|--|------------|------------|
| Kabul                                      | 41         | 16.4       |
| Jalalabad                                  | 37         | 14.8       |
| Kunar                                      | 54         | 21.6       |
| Paktiya                                    | 48         | 19.2       |
| Qandahar                                   | 27         | 10.8       |
| Other                                      | 43         | 17.2       |
| <b>Total</b>                               | <b>250</b> | <b>100</b> |
| <b>Current Residence camp for Refugees</b> |            |            |
| Chakdara Camp                              | 90         | 36         |
| Timergara Camp                             | 85         | 34         |
| Toor Camp (Munda)                          | 75         | 30         |
| <b>Total</b>                               | <b>250</b> | <b>100</b> |

Our results are based on the data collected from the 250 respondents of three different Refugees Camps of District Dir lower, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Pakistan which was Chakdara Refugees Camp, Timergara Refugees Camp and Toor Camp of Refugees which is located in Munda. Majority of respondents 36% were from Chakdara Refugees Camp Timergara camp respondents were 34% while Toor Camp respondents were less than other two camps which were 30%. All the respondents were male as the issue is much related to man members of the family because they handle the family affairs. Further, 24.8% of the respondents were in the age category 18-21, the category of 22-24 having the majority of the respondents which were 52% , 18.4% of the respondents were in the category of 25-27 while 8.8% respondent were above the age of 27. Similarly, more than half 64% of respondents were literate while the remaining were illiterate. Sharing the information regarding the amount of monthly income, 23.2% said that their monthly income is between 10,001-20,000, whereas 27.2% of the participants replied that their monthly income is between 20,001-30,000, on the other hand only 30.4% of them having monthly income between 30,001-40,000 while less than all 19.2% respondents having more than 40,000 monthly income in Pakistan Currency. In respect of Home district in Afghanistan 16.4% respondents belongs to Kabul and nearby areas, the residents of Jalalabad were 14.8% whereas the majority of them belongs to Kunar District of Afghanistan. Similarly, 19.2% participants were from Paktiya area of Afghanistan while less than all 10.8% belongs to Qandahar district and considerable 17.2% respondents were from other areas of Afghanistan.



### Issues faced by Afghan Refugees in Pakistan

The below table shows a different kind of issues faced by Afghan refugees living in Pakistan. The respondents identified different issues faced by them like low earnings/livelihood, shelter, health, water supply, sanitation, education, safety and security, deportation, and other related issues.

Table 2

#### *Issues faced by Afghan Refugees in Pakistan*

| Statement of Problems | Frequency  | Percentage |
|-----------------------|------------|------------|
| Income and Livelihood | 14         | 5.6        |
| Shelter               | 10         | 4          |
| Health                | 51         | 20.4       |
| Water Supply          | 47         | 18.8       |
| Sanitation            | 23         | 9.2        |
| Education             | 38         | 15.2       |
| Safety and Security   | 12         | 4.8        |
| Registration          | 09         | 3.6        |
| Deportation           | 07         | 2.8        |
| Others                | 25         | 10         |
| No Issues             | 14         | 5.6        |
| <b>Total</b>          | <b>250</b> | <b>100</b> |

The intensity of these problems is shown in percentage in table 2. Analysis results indicate the top three issues faced by Afghan refugees were health-related issues, water supply, and educational issues with 20.4%, 18.8%, and 15.2% respectively. Besides this, respondents reported many other issues like income/livelihood, shelter, safety, and security, registration, deportation, non-availability of food, police harassment, and bribery, electricity shortage, overbilling, (landlord) harassment, non-availability of gas and having no graveyard allocation. Whereas 5.6% of the respondents said that they have no issues in Pakistan.

## Expected issues to Afghan Refugees in their Home Country Afghanistan

Table 3

*Expected issues to Afghan Refugees in their Home Country Afghanistan*

| Statement of Problems | Frequency | Percentage |
|-----------------------|-----------|------------|
| Income and Livelihood | 52        | 20.8       |
| Shelter               | 40        | 16         |
| Health                | 30        | 12         |
| Water Supply          | 12        | 4.8        |
| Sanitation            | 13        | 5.2        |
| Education             | 34        | 13.6       |
| Safety and Security   | 32        | 12.8       |
| Deportation           | 07        | 2.8        |
| Others                | 23        | 9.2        |
| No Issues             | 06        | 2.4        |
| Total                 | 250       | 100        |

The given table-3 portrays expected issues to Afghan refugees which might face after reaching to their country of origin. The top issues disclosed by the participant were income/livelihood, shelter problem and safety/security which weighted half of the total issues, they expected to face. Other predicted issues include lack of educational opportunities, poor health facilities, water supply and sanitation were 13.6%, 12%, and 4.8% respectively. Other minor issues were damaged infrastructure, ethnic discrimination, the presence of Taliban, harassment by American and NATO forces are also added by respondents whereas only 2.4% respondents were of the opinion that there will be no issues in their home country when they reach there.

### Support needed to Afghan Refugees during Repatriation Process

Table 4

*Support needed to Afghan Refugees during Repatriation Process*

| <b>Statement of Problems</b> | <b>Frequency</b> | <b>Percentage</b> |
|------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Provide Income Assistance    | 27               | 10.8              |
| Provide Shelter              | 47               | 18.8              |
| Health Facilities            | 21               | 8.4               |
| Water Supply Facilities      | 22               | 8.8               |
| Educational Facilities       | 20               | 8                 |
| Safety and Security          | 71               | 28.8              |
| Others Facilities            | 06               | 2.4               |
| Don't Know                   | 28               | 11.2              |
| No Need                      | 08               | 3.2               |
| <b>Total</b>                 | <b>250</b>       | <b>100</b>        |

During the data, collection process participants were asked to give suggestions regarding support and services to be offered in Afghanistan that will be an incentive for them to return based on information provided to them by their relatives who were already in Afghanistan. The above table-4 depicts that more than all 28.8% of the total participants demanded safety and security at their homeland. Moreover, other participants want assistance in terms of income and livelihood support, shelter and educational facilities which were 10.8%, 18.8%, and 8% respectively. Similarly, 11.2% respondents were not aware that what they will need there while less than all 2.4% mentioned some other facilities like farming, employment opportunities etc. While 3.2% of the respondents replied that they don't need any kind of support in Afghanistan.

## Predicated Issues on Afghan Refugees during Repatriation process from Pakistan to Afghanistan

Table 5

*Predicated Issues to Afghan Refugees during Repatriation process from Pakistan to Afghanistan*

| Statement of Problems              | Frequency  | Percentage |
|------------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Mobility                           | 27         | 10.8       |
| Security                           | 72         | 28.8       |
| Missing Documents                  | 21         | 8.4        |
| Transportation Issues              | 22         | 8.8        |
| Non-Availability of family members | 08         | 3.2        |
| Lack of Financial assessment       | 42         | 16.8       |
| Other                              | 22         | 8.8        |
| Don't Know                         | 28         | 11.2       |
| No response                        | 08         | 3.2        |
| <b>Total</b>                       | <b>250</b> | <b>100</b> |

The table represents the predicted issues Afghan refugees might face during the repatriation process from Pakistan to their homeland Afghanistan. In the given table 28.8% of the total participants feared that they may face security issues in the repatriation to the country of origin. Similarly, 10.8% were of the views that there will be mobility issues whereas considerable 16.8% participants marked the lack of financial assessment as an issue during repatriation process. Moreover, other issues like missing documents, transport issues, non-availability of a family member were with 8.4, 8.8% and 3.2% respectively while 11.2% respondents were not aware of any issues during repatriation process and Afghanistan because they never went back to Afghanistan since they came to Pakistan.

## Prevailing Situations in Afghanistan in the views of Afghan Refugees in Pakistan

In this study, the respondents were asked the opinion about the prevailing situation in Afghanistan. Different factors of the current situation of Afghanistan like Income and livelihood, Shelter, Health, Water Supply, Sanitation, Education and Safety and security put forwarded to the respondents and asked them about their perception in form Very Good,

Good, No option, Bad and very Bad which has been shown in table-6 below.

Table 6

*Prevailing Situations in Afghanistan in the views of Afghan Refugees in Pakistan*

| Attributes            | Very Good | Good      | Neutral   | Bad        | Very Bad  | Total            |
|-----------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------------|
| Income and Livelihood | 17(6.8%)  | 66(26.4%) | 35(14%)   | 87(34.8%)  | 45(18%)   | <b>250(100%)</b> |
| Shelter               | 09(3.6%)  | 34(13.6%) | 24(9.6%)  | 107(42.8%) | 76(30.4%) | <b>250(100%)</b> |
| Health                | 06(2.4%)  | 33(13.2%) | 23(9.2%)  | 123(49.2%) | 65(26%)   | <b>250(100%)</b> |
| Water Supply          | 08(3.2%)  | 25(10%)   | 21(8.4%)  | 143(57.2%) | 54(21.6%) | <b>250(100%)</b> |
| Sanitation            | 14(5.6%)  | 59(23.6%) | 38(15.2%) | 105(42%)   | 34(13.6%) | <b>250(100%)</b> |
| Education             | 11(4.4%)  | 43(17.2%) | 40(16%)   | 98(39.2%)  | 58(23.2%) | <b>250(100%)</b> |
| Safety and Security   | 02(0.8%)  | 16(6.4%)  | 30(12%)   | 154(61.6%) | 48(19.2%) | <b>250(100%)</b> |

The given table shows the responses of the respondent regarding the current situation of Afghanistan in context of different factors. In regards to Income and livelihood 6.8% were of the views that it is very good, 26.4% were of the opinion that is good while 14% didn't give any response to this option whereas majority 34.8% participants marked the bad option in favor of income and livelihood in Afghanistan and 18% of the respondents were of the opinion that income and livelihood situation is very bad in Afghanistan.

Regarding the shelter the table data depicts that majority of the respondents 42.8% went in favor of bad situation of shelter in Afghanistan whereas less than that 30.4% consider the shelter situations very bad there at home country while less than all 3.6% participants were of the opinions that the shelter is very good at Afghanistan and 13.6% believe that is good. In response to this Question, 9.6% remain impartial and didn't answer to any option among them.

The table-6 also illustrates the views of respondents about the health facilities in the prevailing situations of Afghanistan where the data shows that very less 2.4% respondents were of the views that the health facilities is very good while 13.2% thinks that the health situation is good but on the other hand very less from half of all the respondents 49.2% believed that the health facilities at Afghanistan current situation is bad whereas 26% participants were of the opinions that the health situations are very bad. Similarly, considerable 9.2% remain neutral while answering this question during the data collection process.

The above mention tables also demonstrate the information regarding the water supply facilities in the current situations of Afghanistan. In response to this question 8.4% respondents didn't answer to this while in the views of more than half of all 57.2% participants the facilities of water supply is bad whereas 21.6% said that is very bad. Similarly, 10% and 3.2% were of the opinion that is good and very good respectively.

The tables also show the results of the information gathered from the respondents about the sanitation facilities in current time in Afghanistan. The data depicts that only 5.6% participants consider it very good while 23.6% told that it is good whereas 42% and 13.6% respondents were of the opinions that the sanitation faculties is bad and very bad respectively. However, some respondents 15.2% were neutral in answering this question.

In this study, respondents were also asked for the opinion about the prevailing situation in Afghanistan in context of education. Regarding this, the statistics data prevail that 23.2% respondents were of the views that education situations are very bad while 39.2% thinks that educations facilities are bad in Afghanistan in a current situation whereas 16% participants didn't go in favor of any option among very good, good, bad and very bad and remain neutral. On the other hand, only 4.4% were of the opinions that the education is very good while 17.2% respondents showed their consent in favor of that the education facilities are good in the prevailing situations in Afghanistan.

The last question in the prevailing situation in Afghanistan was about the safety and security which was the most important of all. In this context more than half of all the respondents 61.6% said that safety and security is bad and are main issues in Afghanistan while some of them 19.2% reveals that is very bad but on the other hand very less 6.4% and 0.8% were very optimistic and opted that safety and security is good and very good in Afghanistan respectively. Moreover few 12% participants remain neutral while answering this question.

### **Discussion over Findings**

The study was aimed to analyse the different problems to Afghan refugees in Pakistan encountering during repatriations process back to their home country. The study found several issues that were faced by Afghan refugees living in different camps and villages of District Dir, KPK, Pakistan and their fear regarding repatriation. The common issues they faced in Pakistan were income/livelihood related, lack of proper shelter, and poor water

supply facilities. The current research has revealed that if the government of Pakistan and the UNHCR want voluntary repatriation to succeed the conditions relating to security needed improvement, the availability of jobs in the receiving areas needed to expand and adequate facilities needed to be available in the education and the health fields. Furthermore, two areas that would create a pull factor in Afghanistan to attract the refugees back would be the provision of adequate skill development opportunities and availability of employment to generate incomes. Clearly, this is a factor that beyond the capability of Pakistan to influence as it hints at the availability of a separate economic growth and development strategy that is beyond the mandate of Pakistan. The Afghan refugees were afraid that on their return they were exploited by corrupt practices at the border and were apprehensive that they would not receive encashment, long waiting time at collection points. Moreover, they feared for their lives on account of insecurity in Afghanistan. The study also found that there is a need for more effective awareness campaigns regarding repatriation of Afghan refugees. However, it is evident that the negative factors against repatriation are more than the positive ones. Repatriation will increase the rate of wages as labor demand in the Southern district picks up with a decrease of labor availability now being provided by the Afghan Refugees.

### **The conclusion of the Study**

In the conclusion of the study, we found that most of the Afghan refugees migrated to Pakistan between 1978 and 1980. It was revealed that the main sources of income were daily wages, livestock, and small businesses. Majority of the respondents having monthly income in amount ranges from 10,001 – 20,000. Majority of Afghan refugees were from Chakdara Refugees camp and living in District Dir lower from the time of Russian invasion.

During this study, most common issues were Shelter, health, Malnutrition, contaminated water and the polluted environment caused different diseases in refugees' camps/villages but there were no proper health facilities available for them. Education is a basic right of every person, but their children had no proper educational facilities. Another main concern by Afghans refugees was water supply. Some were facing water shortage problem while other were having polluted and contaminated water.

In some camps, there was no electricity available, while those refugees having electricity had a complaint about low voltage and high electricity bills. Afghan refugees were of the view that they could face few constraints after repatriating to their native land. Those expected problems were lack of income opportunities and resources, No housing scheme, lack of

health facilities. One of the biggest issues in Afghanistan is Safety and Security. According to Afghans, they are not safe due to the presence of Taliban and NATO forces, that's why many people avoid returning to their homeland. About prevailing situation of Afghanistan the Afghan people were not satisfied and told that health, security, income, and education sectors were in worse conditions and life there was miserable. Most of the Afghans expressed their willingness for repatriation if security, shelter and livelihood issues are solved. While some were not interested because of the situation in Afghanistan is not suitable for living and they want to live in Pakistan. The study found that they were ready for integration in Pakistan and they want to be a Pakistani citizen. They said they would be grateful to concerned authorities if they help them in this matter.

### **Recommendations of the Study to Concern Authorities**

The study suggests some recommendations on the basis of data obtained from the field to put forward to concern authorities of Pak-Afghan Governments and other United Nation Organizations working for refugees.

- There is a need for close collaboration between Pakistan and Afghanistan in order to create awareness among the Afghan refugees for repatriation and reintegration in their country of origin.
- The situation demands that partners should work for the repatriation of Afghan refugees with UNHCR and other organizations.
- As discussed in the findings of the study, the Afghan refugees fear repatriation to Afghanistan because of the poor security situation and expected problems during repatriation, therefore, awareness campaign needs to be started for them and the security situation needed to be improved in Afghanistan.
- There is a need for national debate on the issue in both Pakistan and Afghanistan, focusing on the resolution of the problem. The more academicians, practitioners, and refugees participate in such events, the more input will be available for policy-makers.
- The study also suggests that for peace the dialogues between Taliban and NATO forces is very necessary because without peace there will be no development in



Afghanistan and some also want that NATO forces leave our homelands and the neighboring countries don't interfere in Afghanistan and start cooperation with Afghanistan for the settlement of Afghan refugees.

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