

Gender Responsive Resettlement: Comprehending Refugee Women's Unique Challenges and Needs with Special Reference to Canada*

Toplumsal Cinsiyete Duyarlı Yerleştirme ve Rehabilitasyon:
Mülteci Kadınların Sıra Dışı Zorluklarını ve İhtiyaçlarını Anlama

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ABSTRACT

The intricacies of resettling women refugees in Canada are discussed in this paper. Various sorts of migrants took refuge in Canada. Although Canada has enacted many regulations to aid refugee integration, there are still problems in assisting refugees to completely integrate into Canadian society. Women refugees face unique hurdles in their daily lives. (1) To conduct a thorough review of existing literature pertaining to the experiences and needs of female refugees. (2) To discuss the Canadian legal system and regulations; and identification of gaps in the legal and policy framework that impede women refugees' integration. (3) To highlight the peculiarities of the private sponsorship system in Canada. (4) To examine whether all services and initiatives are gender-responsive. This study relied mainly on secondary sources such as study papers, periodicals, and books.

Keywords: Refugees, Resettlement, Rehabilitation, Women, Social Integration

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ÖZ

Bu çalışmada Kanada'da yaşayan kadın mültecilerin yerleştirilmesinin karmaşık halleri ele alınmaktadır. Çeşitli göçmen türleri Kanada'ya sığınmıştır. Kanada, mülteci entegrasyonunu desteklemek için birçok düzenleme yapmış olmasına rağmen, mültecilerin Kanada toplumuna tamamen entegre olmalarına yardımcı olma konusunda hala sorunlar bulunmaktadır. Kadın mülteciler günlük yaşamlarında benzersiz engellerle karşılaşmaktadır. Bu çalışmanın amacı şunlardır: (1) Kadın mültecilerin deneyimleri ve ihtiyaçlarıyla ilgili mevcut literatürün detaylı bir incelemesini yapmak. (2) Kanada hukuk sistemi ve düzenlemeleri tartışmak ve kadın mültecilerin entegrasyonunu engelleyen hukuki ve politika çerçevesindeki boşlukları belirlemek. (3) Kanada'daki özel sponsorluk sisteminin özelliklerini vurgulamak. (4) Tüm hizmetlerin ve girişimlerin, kadın mültecilerin çeşitli geçmişleri, deneyimleri ve ihtiyaçları göz önüne alındığında cinsiyet duyarlı olup olmadığını incelemek. Bu çalışma, genellikle çalışma belgeleri, dergiler ve kitaplar gibi ikincil kaynaklara dayanmaktadır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Mülteciler, Yerleşim, Rehabilitasyon, Kadınlar, Sosyal Uyum

Introduction

In this article the complexities of resettling female refugees in Canada are dissected and discussed. Despite the fact that there is no official racism in Canadian refugee policy, studies have revealed certain biases in government policy on refugee admissions. Various sorts of European migrants, including Chileans and Argentinians, Vietnamese, Afghans and Iraqis, Syrians and Indo-Chinese, and others, sought refuge in Canada over the years. Although Canada has enacted many regulations to aid refugee integration, there are still problems in assisting refugees to completely integrate into Canadian society. Women refugees face unique hurdles in their daily lives. Over the last ten years, refugees have consistently made up more than 10% of Canada's yearly intake of new immigrants. Many regulations regulate the status of refugees, including the 1951 Refugee Convention legislation, which specifies that Canadian states must support the integration and naturalisation of refugees to the greatest extent feasible. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), both in Canada and abroad, as well as ministries dealing with refugee policy, such as the Department of External Affairs and Canada Immigration (Refugee Affairs Division) are dealing with refugee policy and procedures In Canada (Nimmons, 1994).

The important characteristics of Canadian refugee protection are, one, the Canadian refugee protection system consists of two main components, such as the in-Canada refugee protection system and the refugee and humanitarian resettlement programme. There are some integration practices adopted by Canada to assist the refugees who intend to settle in Canada permanently (Yu et al., 2007). There are some status differentiations between GAR(Government Assisted Refugees), PSRs (Privately Sponsored Refugees, LCRs (Blended Visa-office Referred Refugees), protected persons and refugee claimants in Canada (Okado et al., 2003). GARs are refugees who are selected and resettled in Canada through the Government of Canada's Refugee Resettlement Programs, and they receive financial assistance. PSRs are privately sponsored, and these sponsors provide financial and settlement support to the refugees maximum for one year. LCRs are refugees who are referred by the UNHCR for resettlement whom receive the combination of government assistance and private sponsorship. Protected persons are individuals who have received protection status in Canada due to fear of persecution in their home country and they are also eligible to live and work in Canada. Another category is refugee claimants refers to the individuals who arrive in Canada and apply for refugee

status after entering into Canada. These refugee claimants go through a very hectic legal process to prove before the IRB (Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada) their eligibility. Canada adopted UNHCR peace and protection policies, US External Affairs foreign policy and diplomatic relations, Canada Immigration (Refugee Affairs division) admissibility procedures and annual intake levels, constituent humanitarian concerns, and economic and political responsibilities in immigration law and policy (Nimmons:1994). Even though these regulations changed the lives of immigrants to a great extent, there are still some categories under 'precarious status,' such as temporary labourers, non-status immigrants, and refugees. Women refugees living in precarious legal status in Canada confront considerable limits on their social rights, particularly when responding to gender-based abuse and exploitation, and they have less access to the social services available (Bhuyan, 2012).

Even though Canada accommodated many numbers of refugees, they had neither a clear cut nor precise refugee policy. Canada had accepted very few non- white refugees, and Canada had no refugee policy until 1977. Earlier there were only ordinary migrants for work. During 1944-1949 economy was the major determinant of migration and incoming of refugees. Refugee policies are always connected with racial, economic, and political considerations. Canada has relatively open to refugees compared to most other western countries. Persecuted individuals inside their country cannot be considered as refugees as per the refugee law (Howard, 1980). The basic ground for a refugee should be the refugee must have a well, founded fear of persecution, not simply a fear of discrimination based on International Refugee Organisation Report in 1946. Since 1945, about 10 per cent of Canada's immigrants have been refugees. In 1960s, Liberal Government introduced a sponsorship programme and in 1978 the Canadians were allowed to sponsor refugees and provided material and social assistance to them. The intention behind the programme was to ensure the involvement of the public in refugee work to cut down the problems of community integration or possible racist backlash. In the beginning and for a while, Canada's immigration policy is in principle, not that much gender and race neutral. The Immigration Act of 1976-77 exemplifies historical continuities in racializing and gendering the nation and immigrants. Canada relied much on immigration, and immigration regulations have historically barred the door to newcomers, particularly women. Even though the Immigration Act of 1976-77 resulted in certain policy adjustments, racial inequities continued. When we go through the history of Canadian immigration and refugee influx, we can see that Canadian immigration policy distinguishes between preferred and non-preferred races. The Immigration Act of 1976-77 declared that the goal was to "enrich and strengthen Canada's cultural and social fabric (Studies, n.d.). Immigrant women were always considered as outside people. People of colour in Canada are seen as outsiders, regardless of the nature of their presence in the country. There are several instances in which labelling all non-white women as immigrant women is inappropriate.

1. Methodology

Female refugees in Canada have unique challenges and have unique needs, which this research attempts to address. The following goals are emphasized in the article: (1) To conduct a thorough review of existing literature pertaining to the experiences and needs of female refugees. (2) To discuss the Canadian legal system and regulations; and identification of gaps in the legal and policy framework that impede women refugees' integration. (3) To highlight the peculiarities of the private sponsorship

system in Canada. (4) To examine whether all services and initiatives are gender-responsive, taking into account the diverse backgrounds, experiences, and needs of women refugees. Secondary sources for this study included study papers, periodicals, and books. This study was carried out as part of a short-term research plan financed by the Shastri Canadian Institute.

2. Literature Review

The study (Mir et al., 2020) on seventy decades of refugee protection in Canada, i.e. from 1950 to 2020 explore the details in related to the efforts and initiatives and policy changes. Since the arrival of refugees in Canada, the policies and programs developed and integrate refugees. This study recognizes the involvement of refugees to the Canadian society. Earlier there were many aid organizations, church groups, federal officials worked for the resettlement of refugees in Canada. Hence, they could resettle more than thirty-seven thousand Hungarian refugees in 1956-57 and twelve thousand Czech refugees between 1968-1969. During this period the government allowed private agencies to sponsor refugees and revamped points systems and included other provisions for admissibility, detention and removal. Besides, there were Tibetans, Ugandan Asians, Chileans and Indochinese refugees also resettled in Canada. During this time, they paid extra attention to the needs and safety of refugee women. It became more and more likely that refugee women would not be able to meet the requirements for the groups set out in the Immigration Act because they did not have enough work experience, spoke a language other than English, or had problems with their families. Because of all of these things, the government started the Women at Risk Program in 1987, and it became official in 1989. The main goal of this plan was to re-house refugee women who were especially at risk of being abused and might not have been able to get into Canada under normal refugee rules. When we look into the history, we can see that there were many categories of refugees resettled in Canada like the Salvadorian, Sri Lankan Tamils, Lebanese and Indo-Chinese and the recent refugee categories. So Canadian civil society and the government deserves appreciation for considering an inclusive policy towards the marginalized and oppressed refugees.

(Press & Journeys, 2021) explains that the origin and meaning of the word 'refugee'. It traces the French word 'refuge' used to describe the Huguenots who fled France in the 16th and 17th Centuries. It also explores how this word has become a powerful label that stereotypes and institutionalises a status of exile, poverty and deprivation. It also examines how refugees are constructed and understood by media and how political agencies dehumanise them. It also analyses how refugees are seen as a threat or a burden to the host communities. Even after the refugees become citizens or permanent residence, the refugee was facing the same issues as they were earlier. It argues that refugees who are visibly different from the hegemonic white identity. This study clearly depicts that the situation of refugees almost same in the destination countries. It also discusses the role of media and the state position the 'refugees' in specific ways. The negative images circulate in the media play a big role in creating a negative attitude among the mainstream society. The global discourses on refugees use the term 'refugee camps, asylum seekers, queue jumpers. Whenever people hear the word 'refugee', they equate it with 'vulnerability, inferiority, alienness, pity and so on. Hence, the refugees themselves do not want them to be labelled as 'refugees'. Some people from the host society use the label of 'refugees' to exclude them from the mainstream activities. This study reveals that in most of the cases the blackness or religious otherness position them as perpetual refugees. The racialisation of the refugee in countries of hegemonic whiteness is a common scenario.

Noureen Spencer (Causes, 2011) elucidates the emergency of refugee women as a distinct social category, grappling with numerous domestic and societal challenges during the period from 1978 to 1988, shaped by various global events. Earlier Canada had to deal with some problems in addition to the real difficulties of changing policies and adding a plan for women to the immigrant policy. Later, based on the Refugee Convention's rules and named some categories in class wise (CR, DC1, CR/DC3 and CR/DC5) with special focus on women. Eventually "Women at Risk Program" (AWR) launched in 1987, and it is supported by NGOs, churches, immigrant service delivery organisations. After a few years, lot of changes happened even among NGOs whom strongly argued for the necessity of gender awareness training for the visa and protection officers as they work with the refugee women. The study clearly focuses on the needs of people who have been through migration stress or other cultural issues that could make it take longer for them to settle in. The AWR Programme, which is a joint effort by the private and public sectors in Canada, mostly helps community workers who help women get back on their feet.

This study (Daley, 2009) tried to fill in some research gaps and deal with problems in relationships between different groups. It also looked at how to help refugees fit in and keep communities together. It looked at social ties and views in a certain study area, as well as possible factors that might have an effect. It also talked about what the results meant for community cohesion and integrating refugees. The study concludes by emphasizing the importance of fostering positive cohesion in multicultural areas with changing communities and highlights the significance of policy, research, and practice at local, national, and international levels. This article argues that there is a lack of understanding of integration process in general and social integration and cohesion in particular. Negative perceptions about refugees are widely prevalent and it is quite influenced by media. It clearly mentions the key factors contribute to successful refugee integration at a local level which includes such as access to basic needs such as housing, education, healthcare, opportunities for meaningful engagements with political structures and networks, the provision of culturally sensitive services and support and the development of strong social connections and networks within the local community. Interconnections between the host and new communities is essential. Community development initiatives play a vital role in addressing underlying tensions and prejudices against the immigrants and it would help them to resolve the conflict. In addition to that there is significant prejudice exist against the refugees and asylum seekers, tensions regarding the employment possibilities from both sides. Difference between people in terms of culture and faith also become a hinderance for integration in some occasions. So, dialogues between different communities based on shared goals and equality ensure the integration.

Refugee women also have problems in the social cohesion processes. For example, in some studies, it has been revealed that women whose spouses are missing face a significant uncertainty about their future. This uncertainty is one of the foremost challenges encountered by refugee women who cannot receive any news from their spouses. Additionally, gender roles, abuse, language barriers, and prejudices are highlighted as significant obstacles to social integration in the host country. It has also been discovered that refugee women are at a high risk of facing dangers and threats during the migration process (Karakurt & Gülerce, 2022; Gülerce, 2020). These may be considered as obstacles to the social cohesion processes of refugee women.

Describes women and children constitute approximately 80 percent of the world refugee population (Young, 2016). However, their needs and rights are often failed to consider. Refugee women and children are more likely to suffer abuses such as rape, sexual slavery, forced prostitution, forced marriages, abduction, and forced military recruitment. This also varies in nature and extent based on the socio-economic status. Children are frequently deprived of educational opportunities, and women are left out of skills, training and microenterprise programs (Feller, 1951). Jacobson in his work discusses why some host governments respond in relatively generous ways while other governments act more restrictively and shows a set of factors influencing refugee policy formation. There are four categories of factors affecting refugee policies are choices made by the government, international relations, the capacity of local host community and the national security on bureaucratic choices (Jacobsen, 1996).

Canada's Women at Risk Programme (AWR) introduced in 1988 to aid female refugees within the country. The programme is handled by Refugee Affairs, which keeps meticulous records and monitors cases from their first identification by UNHCR Protection Officers overseas and delivers regular status updates to the UNHCR Ottawa Branch. The AWR programme offers a variety of services to refugee women, including counselling, language training, job training, and housing and childcare help. The programme also assists women who have been victims of abuse or trauma in obtaining medical and legal services. The AWR programme is sponsored by non-governmental organisations (NGOs), churches, and immigrant service delivery organisations, all of which embraced the programme and gave feedback during its development. Language problems, a lack of access to school and employment training, and prejudice are among issues that refugee women encounter. Many refugee women have also been subjected to abuse or trauma prior to or during their trip to their destination country. The programme has also grown increasingly integrated with other government and community services, and it has formed relationships with NGOs, churches, other immigrant service delivery organisations. The AWR programme has had a tremendous influence on the lives of refugee women in Canada. However, much work has to be done to address the continued obstacles confronting refugee women in Canada, as well as to ensuring that all women have access to the support and resources they require to succeed.

The study (Al-Hamad et al, 2023) discovered the distinct requirements of Syrian refugee women and the gender specific health care demands. Hamad explains that Syrian refugee women in Canada experience language obstacles, housing concerns, a lack of social links, weather-related challenges, and health-care issues. Women refugees face difficulties as a result of repeated relocation. According to UNHCR (2020), Canada has accepted 21,745 privately sponsored refugees. The health of refugees is impacted by a number of systemic issues, including inaccessibility to healthcare and other services, social isolation, lack of cultural competency, language barriers, and the non-availability of interpreting services. The study revealed that Syrian refugee women from lower socioeconomic groups could not satisfy their basic demands. Inequalities and social power shape Syrian refugee women's experiences with trauma, migration, and health issues. A large number of Syrian refugees have relocated in a section of Hamilton, Ontario. The most difficult experience as refugee women were prejudice, despair, marginalisation, and feeling different in the host country Canada. As a Syrian refugee and a woman, it multiplies the oppression and associated negative stereotypes and are regarded as a burden. Because of perceived preconceptions and poverty, these women are unable to obtain welfare programmes like other refugee women. Syrian refugee women are drawn to Canada because of its equal and accessible health-care system. But there some refugee experiences express

its slowness and long wait times for appointments with healthcare specialists. Some women voiced a wish for culturally appropriate training for professionals, particularly those with gynaecological issues. Syrian refugee women are highly vulnerable population as they faced lot of hardships and constant worries and high insecurity and marginalisation. Literary hurdles, limited knowledge about existing health system, lower education, unemployment also are other barriers for inclusion. Due to the level of sponsorship status, they become ineligible for some health services. This study says that refugee women need trauma informed, culturally relevant and effective health treatment (Al-Hamad et al., 2023).

3. Private Sponsorship in Canada

Canada established the "Women at Risk Programme" to facilitate relocation through private and government sponsorship. The Canadian government consistently promoted private sponsorship of refugees to lower the program's expenses. Private Sponsorship is the relocation of a refugee to Canada, where financial expenses and settling assistance are covered by private groups or institutions. Private sponsorship aims to provide financial assistance for housing, food, and care for refugees during the sponsorship period. In order for a person to be considered a refugee, several conditions must be met. The organisers are supposed to give emotional and financial assistance, infrastructural facilities, home products, and other fundamental requirements of life. The sponsoring group is fully responsible for providing comprehensive assistance, including therapy for a duration of one year.

The Canadian government agency known as Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship (IRCC) steps in to assist refugees whenever a conflict emerges. Conflict between newcomer and sponsors are common. 'Sponsorship breakdown' is another phrase that has emerged in refugee discourse. When a sponsor and a newbie refugee are unable to fulfil their obligations under the sponsorship agreement, this is known as a sponsorship breakdown. Apparently, a lot of sponsorships have fallen through in recent years. The Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada IRCC would notify the sponsor and initiate the cancellation of the sponsorship agreement when this occurs. Major causes of sponsorship collapse include personality conflicts, excessive expectations on either the part of the sponsor or the refugee, and changes in the newcomer's life circumstances. Newcomers seek social help throughout the sponsorship term if their sponsors fail to meet their financial and settlement support obligations; on occasion, sponsors and newcomers may not communicate with one another and may act independently. As a result, they often find themselves at odds with one another, with the officer often stepping in to mediate. Notifying the co-sponsor is crucial for the sponsorship arrangement.

If a new refugee's sponsorship breaks down, she will not get additional help from another sponsoring organisation in Canada or from the office of IRCC. Therefore, the resettlement and related issues should be carefully monitored and assessed. If the sponsors are not at blame for the breakdown, they will receive a declaration of 'no fault' breakdown and there will be no ramifications for the sponsoring group. Sponsors have reported that some new migrants relocate to other nations or regions without alerting the sponsoring organisation, sometimes owing to the newcomers' ignorance or conflicts between the newcomers and sponsors. Economic reasons and lack of information about the host culture might lead to misunderstandings. If there is any sponsorship breakdown happens, the sponsorship agreement will be cancelled or suspended.

4. Major Social Services Available to Women Refugees

This paper addresses the following topics concerning the services available to refugee women in Canada:

(1) Language training for women refugees

There are some settlement agencies like the YMCA (Young Men's Christian Association), Catholic Cross-cultural Service etc provide certain services with language training, job search and cultural orientation and housing issues. LINC (Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada) offers specialised resources specifically for women refugees. Like that National Organisation of Immigrant and Visible Minority Women of Canada (NOIVMWC) also work for the wellbeing of women visible minority group. Other organisations offer networking opportunities, guidance and mentoring. Federal and provincial governments try to promote the economic integration and NGOs like Canadian Women's foundation and Women's shelters Canada offer programmes or resources specifically designed to support refugee women in Canada. But there are many challenges that women refugees are facing in the case of language training support such as the above-mentioned programmes are not equally accessible to all. Most of these programmes are located in the highly developed areas and centred in cities. Language training programmes cannot be accessible to all refugee women in particular due to its training conduct in irregular hours which means some women are not able to attend the class due to the control of family members. Most of the time the trainers cannot comprehend and prepare the learning materials in adherence with the cultural background of diverse group of refugees which act as a hinderance for effective communication and cultural integration.

(2) Counselling services

Refugees suffer torture, trauma and difficult experiences during the flee and at the site of resettlement. There are different programmes arranged for easing the stress of refugees by different agencies such as government, private agencies and so on conducting programmes which is funded the ISAP (Immigrant Settlement and Adaptation Programme) in different provinces of Canada for helping the parents, children and couples to adjust with their new surroundings. When women come into new destination and bearing new identity, knowledge regarding banking and transportation is essential. There are some family counselling women's groups actively engaging in counselling. The federal government has contribution agreements with various service providing organisations across Canada. The supportive mechanisms work through Abbotsford community service which provided employment service, translation and interpretation. Another organisation 'S.U.C.C.E.S.S' offer specialised services for women, children, youth and elderly for improving the housing, health, counselling, legal, recreation support (Yu et al., 2007). The 'Calgary Catholic Immigration Society' offers referrals, recreational activities etc. Regina Open door Society offers referral, language class, recreation, family counselling and support etc. Ninety percent of the funding for these NGOs offered by federal, provincial and local levels of government.

(3) Cohesion Initiatives Required

Regular meetings conducted and it should allow all parties involved in refugee assistance exchange programs ideas. Women themselves need to feel that they are taking part in programmes

decision and strategies. The most important aspects in which refugee women needed is that (1) providing security (2) link the refugee assistance to development assistance (3) prepare refugee population to handle their own affairs. Education and skill building, formal and informal ways of education are necessary for making it into reality.

(4) Cultural Adaptation

Refugee cultural adaptation is very important. Inability to communicate verbally and inability to comprehend how to behave in different situations in the host culture is important. If cultural disorientation, it will definitely lead to inadequacy, alienation and depression.

5. Challenges of women Refugees

Canada's selection programmes of refugees are different. They considered the need of the specific refugees while selecting them. Canada developed Resettlement from abroad to Canada (RAC) to facilitate the selection of women from the greatest immediate physical danger. Priority granted to women who were socially threatened within the community. When the programmes introduced in a culturally acceptable ways only the living conditions of the refugee women will be improved. The most important factor is that if the existing programmes replicated on larger scale only, it would be benefitted to a larger number of refugee women.

Refugee issue become aggravated at the time of arrival in destination because of many reasons. At the time of arrival, the refugees are not having adequate legal or the contextual knowledge. At the same time, the immigration officers also may not be trained or empathetic to grasp the issues and deal it properly. Most of the time, the women experience difficulty in communicating their problems such as inability to speak the local language or its poor translation and lack of clarity and description in the transcripts of the written documents. But one appreciable aspect about the Canadian Refugee Sponsorship Board is that they included the representatives of non-governmental agencies. Studies pointed out the most important reasons for refugee integration to Canada are mainly from three categories of people, ie, fleeing from war, political upheaval or natural disaster or the family stays in Canada.

Women refugees face difficulty to find a home as landowners carry a kind of prejudice against immigrant and refugee women on the basis of their race, country of origin and socio-economic background. Regardless of their education, women refugees have to take some manual labour as they are very much stereotyped, and it makes them difficult to find a job. There are numerous preconceptions about refugee women since they cannot speak English or French. The reality is that the refugee community in Canada is not homogeneous. Many women immigrated from many continents, including Asia, Africa, and South America. Some women refugees arrived from Eastern Europe as well. These ladies represent a wide range of cultures as well as political and personal settings. The assumption that refugee women have large families is also a misconception. Other misconceptions about the refugee women are more feminine, submissive, sexually accessible, obedient, undemanding, and eager to perform housework. Bug these misconceptions has to be reconstructed with effective strategies. Since Canada has a workforce deficit, they should use the services of these immigrant women, and some have already been formed small size firms. Another popular misconception is that Canada takes a high number of refugees. One refugee is accepted for every 443 Canadians born. This ratio is lower than that of countries like Lebanon, which accepts one

refugee for every eleven native-born Lebanese citizens, and Jordan, which admits one refugee for every three Jordanians (Sheet, 2003).

Aid and assistance to men are quite easy and accessible. It is quicker and easier to provide training, employment and self-employment opportunities to men than women because men are mobile, less socially restricted group, have more freedom to undertake any work as they wish and they have more time at their disposal. Men's vocational skills are more relevant to their new situation. Aid and assistance always supposed to receive by men as they are considered as the breadwinner of the family. In fact, women are the group needed much assistance. Along with this, there are few opportunities for wage employment for refugee women. Women do not have easy access to unskilled jobs. While men are hired as porters, watchman or manual labourers, women rely either on their own entrepreneurial abilities to earn an income. Most of the women refugees are dependent on the income generating opportunities provided by aid agencies. The major resettlement concerns for women refugees can be categorised into three (1) basic living necessities like housing, training, clothing, furniture, living allowance, food, health care. (2) Economic adaptation are employment, retraining, credential recognition, language training, awareness of social programmes. (3) cultural aspects like language, cultural leaning, emotional and psychological aspects etc.

Earlier the women did not have the right to appear before the IAB (Immigration Appeal Board) without the counsel or a lawyer. At that time, the undetailed or imprecise transcripts spoke for them. The transcripts lead them to complicated or misleading assumptions and conclusions. The transcripts were almost unreliable and the claimant had to present before the board without having an advocate and the inadequate translation raised lot of criticism. In addition to that, the serious allegation against the board was that they were very much biased against refugee women from Latin American countries like Chile, Argentina and Uruguay (Howard, 1980).

Pregnant and postpartum women require specialised care. When the women decide to flee to Canada, they expect exceptional health care protection in the destination. However, sociocultural disparities, language limitations, and other legal requirements complicate their situations. Women in refugee conditions have distinct pregnancy, parenthood, and marriage experiences. There are certain difficulties getting health insurance because of their refugee status. Their immigrant status, low-wage or no-wage occupations, and discriminatory attitudes contribute to their loneliness in daily life. Being pregnant unintentionally while fleeing makes it difficult to obtain pregnancy care. This pregnancy complicates an already difficult position in which they have no work or career. As a result, these women subject to deal with the difficulties and further complications. They are sadder and more subjected to violence more frequently during this period since they are dependent on others for everyday life and child care in addition to their health care.

Canada's immigration and refugee policies are meant to embrace principles of non-discrimination and universality, the statistics indicate that the Canada's refugee policies still need to be refrained to produce a programme that is sensitive and responsive to different needs of women. Absence of female staff in the point of entry itself shows the negligence towards women refugees. In the entry point, trained & empathetic immigration officers needed. Gender friendly information also should be available in the entry point. Most of the study pointed out the attitude and professionalism of the senior immigration officers during the initial interview matters. The negative experience if any, happened at that time, it affects the women refugees throughout their life. Most of the time the officers are not gender sensitive as they are not properly trained and are not aware about the cultural differences. The important things in the initial period are (1) Women in immediate danger should be prioritised. (2)The application processing time also should be reduced at least to some extent in the

case of women, particularly those women having children. Women refugees are low at education and other job skills. If the officers are in charge of refugee protection and immigration are not gender sensitive, the needs and special requirements of them cannot be handled. But some NGOs very effectively handle the projects in the area of family horticulture, poultry, animal raising, handicrafts and small enterprise activities etc. Many agencies now focus to increase the employment and income generation among refugee women. UNHCR given training for carpet weaving, bags and handicrafts making. Also, training has been given to women from different African women refugees to become self-reliant. Policies and schemes intended for refugees are still based on the traditional male view of women as dependents. (3) Gender sensitisation programmes should be conducted for female refugees and officers and management responsibility should also be entrusted to women alone. Most of the refugee camps are administered by male members and women's participation in the administrative affairs decrease the chance for exploitation. Most of the camp officials are male members, they control administration and resource allocation and employment opportunities. Even though women's organisation visible in the camp premises, they seldom involve in decision making. Mostly women are engaged in raising their voices, but still remain powerless to engage in the decision making.

The women refugees who have suffered severe physical and psychological trauma such person require elaborate medical care. Many refugee women are illiterate, unskilled neither speak English/ French. There are certain requisites for adaptation to Canadian life. Women generally subject to racial or economic discrimination compared to the male members in their family. Male members are assumed as hard workers and entrepreneurial. Women refugees are afraid of living under surveillance of authorities and different agencies in the country. (Howard, 1980) revealed that the way of questioning by the board like RCMP. The regular checking and intervention among the lives, checking the contacts of women refugees gradually reduce the enthusiasm for adaptation and it lead to severe psychological and physical disorders. Different refugees have different experiences based on the background from which they came to destination.

Women refugees in Canada have fewer opportunities for wage employment. Because most of them do not possess adequate formal education and language requirements. Women do not have easy access to unskilled job like that of men. Men are hired as watchers, porters or manual labourers. Women's unassisted entrepreneurial activities are confined to petty trading in basic commodities, making and setting handicrafts. Women still engaged in the selling of handicrafts items which will not equip them to live independently. Another important thing is that most of them women do not have shops to sell these products. So, the intermediaries in the selling process also caused some kind of exploitation. Women still waiting for the assistance from aid agencies. The occupations in which women refugees are generally employed in small scale poultry, raising vegetables, gardening, soap and honey production. They cannot take loans from them as they do not have any permanent income and adequate skills. In addition to that the family responsibilities and restricted mobility and lack of formal education causes problems to them. Some agencies serve loans for lending sewing machines, giving training for women. But farming opportunities given by some agencies in some regions which seems good for decent income for women. Most of the women face lot of restrictions even while choosing assistance or choosing a training programme. "The particular job/training programme not suitable for you" is the statement often heard by women refugees from their family members restrict their livelihood.

Another aspect which we need to notice is that men dominate even in the field of counselling and extension services, there are certain schemes to train community development workers from

refugee population on the recruitment of young men. Most of the studies pointed out that the dependent attitude of refugee women remains the major cause of the problem. Feminist theory emphasises the unequal power dynamic between men and women in society. Here the power dynamics persist and exacerbated due to the forced displacement, and it somehow augment the traditional gender roles and there will be little access to resources and decision-making authority. Since women dependent on the patriarchal structures which restrict the autonomy and mobility which again amplify the restrictions and caused for women rely on male members or external aid assistance. As women have limited resources, their dependency towards others restricts their ability to make independent choices. Therefore, women are subject to different forms of violence including domestic violence and sexual assault. So feminist theorists argue for the importance of enhancing women's agency and empowerment. So, policies and interventions needed for addressing and resolving the structural inequalities and power imbalances that contribute to dependent attitudes among refugee women. This include providing education, economic opportunities and support networks that empower women to make choices about their mobility and lives. Here without the deliberate involvement of women refugees, no one can change socio cultural norms that reinforce dependent attitude among women. Therefore, it is very important to reduce gendered power dynamics, economic disparities and intersecting forms of discrimination to bring refugee women to the forefront.

6. Analysis & Discussion

Each year, only a small number of women refugees are relocated internationally. Even after resettlement or permanent residency, they are still classified as refugees. The 'second generation Refugees' are the children of refugees. Refugees, too, carry the sense of what others think of them, and they adopt particular practises to conceal their identity from the public. They desired to be recognised by the name of their abilities. In the public sphere people normally hear only the negative portrayal of refugees. But we must listen to the voices of women refugees and appreciate their complexities and we must go beyond the trauma and victimisation narratives of these women. Rather of highlighting the bad, we should listen to the voices and strive for agency, resilience, and originality. They are portrayed as complicated personalities in the media and literature. In short, the bureaucratic system frame the identification of refugees and the refugees looked by the host society as ahistorical, apolitical victims must be changed.

The 2018 United Nations Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) says that interventions are very important when dealing with refugees. Canada is engaging in global refugee regime and the language has changed a lot, but the empowerment goal did not become attained. Canada is following the top-down development approach which is not at all helpful to meet the needs of refugees or which again emphasis the power dynamics. This is one side it attempts to build the empowerment of refugee women but on the other side it reinforces the vulnerabilities by creating dependency on external intervention. Instead of the top-down approach what Canada must to do is that the bottom -top approach which will give the refugees to advance more and implement programmes which would make more impact on the refugee women's lives. Implementation of global policy is very important for the global refugee regime. The Govt of Canada and UNHCR implement the global policies in local context is very essential. "Western paternalism" shaped refugee policies and vulnerability heavily influenced Canadian foreign policy decisions in 1990s and 2000s. There is little effort to bring about local solutions, and women and children are consistently associated with "vulnerability" in policies such as Canada's Feminist International Assistance Policy (FIAP), which gives an image about women are always in need of external assistance rather than recognising their agency. They strongly emphasise that this tendency brings the refugee women as merely the beneficiaries of assistance. This clearly reveals that without the support and protection of family, women are considered as vulnerable.

All the above-mentioned factors distinguish the women refugee experience a bit different from that of men refugees. Most of the instance, indirect discrimination has more severe consequences for women. Concentration of women in a comparatively narrow range of jobs lead to distress. Family ties, class etc lead them to occupy in a narrowed job. The economic disadvantage of refugee women makes them more vulnerable to unintended and negative impact of government legislation, policy and practice. Joint report of Canadian Council for Refugees, Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants report that some positive and negative impacts of policies in related to refugee women. Permanent Residence fee regulation reduced the financial burden on immigrant women in particular. But there are some other factors negatively affected women refugees. Refugee Determination System Bill has negative impact like refugee women who face gender-based persecution do not know to identify the basis of their claim without legal advice. Temporary resident Permit guidelines also impose a burden of proof as a victim of trafficking (Chinese, 2012).

The concept of social capital is extremely pertinent to gaining an understanding of and assisting with the incorporation of female refugees into Canadian society. Individuals' effective integration into a new society is dependent on their social networks, relationships, and community ties. Women refugees have few social networks compared to the women in mainstream society. These networks are critical for providing information, resources, and other support systems required for adjusting to their host community. Women refugees are being left behind in educational and occupational prospects due to a lack of social capital. This social capital assists people in overcoming language hurdles, confronting social and cultural constraints, and decreasing their vulnerability. Along with social capital, when understanding the experiences of women refugees, intersectionality is equally crucial. Because Canadian women refugees are not homogeneous and come from many races, ethnicities, and socioeconomic backgrounds. If we want to acquire the unique experience of a refugee group in a given ethnicity, the researcher must go into the details. Otherwise, generalising the experience of women refugees is inappropriate. Understanding the challenges and needs of one refugee group requires an understanding of the refugee group's cultural and social background. Then only policymakers will be able to recognise the special needs and vulnerabilities of women refugees in their contexts. Although all women refugees marginalised from the mainstream, the nature and extent of vulnerability varied depending on social capital and intersectional factors. Hence, these two theories would be useful for policy makers in developing more inclusive and effective strategies for supporting women refugees. The feminist intersectionality theory explains the how refugee women face multiple layers of marginalization and discrimination since they belong to various social categories such as refugee status, ethnicity, nationality etc. Hence it is very important to understand the intersecting identities while implementing the rehabilitation programmes that address the specific needs and challenges of refugee women. Other feminist theories also help to analyse and address the sociological and gendered dimensions of displacement and rehabilitation.

Conclusion

This study concludes that, despite the efforts of several international agencies including UNHCR in Canada, the refugee women's voices have never been sufficiently represented on international platforms. Therefore, refugee women still facing multiple marginalisation and largely invisible to mainstream women's groups. In general, refugee rights are linked to border and national security concerns. Why the ordinary individuals are hesitant to take up the issues of refugee women in particular should be widely discussed and debated. Furthermore, limitations put on refugees are always a hindrance for an average person who want to assist them. Refugee women are potential

victims of human rights violation. Even after they have been relocated in developed nations, the refugee designation follows them as a 'refugee', 'former refugee', or 'someone with refugee heritage'. As a result, a significant amount of community-based intervention is required to deconstruct the categorisation of 'others' or as 'victims'. Another area that requires investigation in refugee women's social involvement and political participation. Understanding intersectional issues such as different types of oppression in terms of immigrant status, religion, socioeconomic position are important in the context of social engagement and political involvement, since different categories of refugees are classified and treated differently in each location. Therefore, socioecological and intersectional approach is very much essential in understanding the problems of refugee women. This article concludes hereby saying that "empower and strengthen the women agency is more essential than perpetuating the perception of refugee women as constant aid seekers" is the policy should be followed and adopted.

Recommendations

- Ensure steps to make the registration documents in their names.
- Provide legal aid services for women refugees, including information on their rights and protection from gender-based violence.
- Collaborate with legal organizations specializing in refugee and women's rights and free legal aid should be introduced to them
- Organize cultural exchange programs to foster social integration and understanding.
- Promote community engagement and participation by women in various social activities and organizations.
- If there is no kin or mother, fostering out the children
- Women refugees must be a target group for long term assistance aimed at ensuring the self-reliance of the refugee population.
- In the case of single or women headed household women, an additional care and intervention is needed. There are unaccompanied adolescent girls, elderly and disabled women also should get priority.
- Avoid all chance of closed facilities where refugee women are likely to be victims of violence. The main focus of the refugee resettlement should be health and nutrition programmes, education and employment.

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