

Rohingya Influx: Threats to Environment and Public Health in Cox's Bazar

Maruf Mia*

Sheikh Abir Hossain**

Abstract

Threats to Environment and Public Health in Cox's Bazar posed by Rohingya Influx have become a major concern. Aid groups and environmentalists have warned against possible outbreak of diseases and environmental disasters as Bangladesh built the world's largest refugee camp for Rohingya who fled to the country following deadly violence in Myanmar's Rakhine State. The clearing of forest and hills in Cox's Bazar, the country's most popular tourist destination, would be disastrous for the environment. Environment and biodiversity of Cox's Bazar have already taken blows with the chopping down of thousands of trees and leveling of hills. Cutting of hills for settlements triggers landslides during the monsoon period. Nevertheless, there is impact on eco-system that refers to natural forests, protected areas and critical habitats, vegetation, wildlife, and marine and freshwater etc. It is a matter of regret that no solution was found till 2018 and the number of refugee plights have been gradually increasing to the extent. Experts opine that Rohingya plights are vehemently affecting on the environment and public health. This study has examined the environmental and public health related threats of Rohingya influx from Myanmar on the local individuals of Cox's Bazar region. The possible guidelines to sort it out have also been analyzed here. The researchers have applied systematic review method to conduct this study.

Keywords: Rohingya, Refugee, Environment, Health, Threat

Introduction

The Rohingya people are one of the most ill-treated and persecuted refugee groups in the world, having lived in a condition of statelessness for over six generations, and who are still doing so (Uddin and Khan, 2017). Rakhine state of Western Myanmar/Burma is home to at least 800,000 Muslims where the majority identify themselves as Rohingya (Khan,

* Assistant Professor (Political Science), School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Languages Bangladesh Open University, Gazipur-1705

** Staff Researcher, Institute of Educational Development, BRAC University, Dhaka

2018). The Rohingyas were stripped off their citizenship and right to self-identify by the 1982 Citizenship Law of Myanmar (European Commission, 2017). The brutal killing of the Rohingya people and violence against them for several decades by the government of Myanmar have forced the Rohingyas to leave their country and take shelter in neighboring countries. Most of them have entered Bangladesh. Recently, a large number of Rohingya plight into Bangladesh has been a concern particularly relating to environment and public health issues. Alongside with many socioeconomic challenges of the refugee access in the country, the situation will have an adverse impact on environmental management and public health issues (UCAnews.com, 2017).

It has already been reported in media that the environmental degradation may be occurred in areas of the refugee shelters, and probably going to be a severe environmental management issue in the nearest future if we are not much alert in focusing their settlement issues immediately (The Independent, 2017). Last year, the huge Rohingya slums were built violating the environmental rules and laws of Bangladesh. Earlier, there were 32,527 Rohingya people, now about one million and expecting to 800,000 by this year. Beside the existing Rohingya camps, the slums of the Rohingyas have also spread out over the hills in the surrounding plains. The rubber gardens, government khas land, fallow or crop lands are occupied by small and large, medium slums - made by various types of Rohingya (The Independent, 2017).

The increasing trend of the present Rohingya situation will undoubtedly shrink the production of local agricultural crops, which ultimately affect livelihoods including many indigenous people (The Independent, 2017). On the other hand, the country's most attractive tourist area of Cox's Bazar has fallen in an imbalance situation in terms of natural beauty in particular. If there is no sustainable management of the Rohingya situation, a large number of natural and social disasters will lead to serious environmental disasters (The Independent, 2017). Aid agencies have warned that putting such large number of people would expose them to potential outbreak of epidemics, especially cholera (UCAnews.com, 2017). Therefore, when it is concentrated on too many people into a very small area, particularly the people who are very vulnerable to diseases, it is dangerous (Watkins, 2018).

Rohingya

Rohingyas are a minority from North Arkan in Myanmar (Imran and Mian, 2014). This minority community is not regarded as the citizen of Myanmar in spite of their residence in Myanmar for centuries. Rohingyas have no freedom of movement and need to apply for passes (even for traveling purposes in their country of domicile) which are not free of charge, limited marketing access and limited employment opportunities (Imran and Mian, 2014).

Refugee

According to the 1951 Refugee Convention, a refugee is defined as a person who: 'Owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality, and is unable to or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country or to return there because there is a fear of persecution...' (Imran and Mian, 2014).

Legal Status of Rohingyas

Rohingyas have been suffering from identity crisis for long. Despite their contributions to the economy and society their origin, ethnicity and identity have been questioned. The Myanmar government identifies them as “illegal Bengali immigrants to Myanmar”. Bangladesh has strongly opposed Myanmar’s official position on the ethnic identity of the Rohingyas as “illegal Bengali immigrants to Myanmar” (Imran and Mian, 2014). The government of Bangladesh does not recognize them as Rohingya refugees from Myanmar and has defined them as “forcibly displaced Myanmar citizens”. Bangladesh is signatory to several international human rights treaties. Their provisions indirectly promote the rights of refugees. However, they are not enforceable in courts of law. Bangladesh has been issuing identity cards to the Rohingyas as Myanmar Nationals. These Myanmar Nationals have been biometrically registered by Immigration and Passport Department of Bangladesh. The Registered Rohingyas receive three types of humanitarian support including relief, medical support and shelter (CPD, 2018).

Rohingya Refugees in Bangladesh

Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh refer to the Rohingya refugees from Myanmar living in Bangladesh. Since the 1970s Rohingya refugees have been coming to Bangladesh from Myanmar. In the 1990s, more than 250,000 resided in refugee camps in Bangladesh. In the early 2000s, all but 20,000 of them were repatriated to Myanmar, some against their will (Thomson, 2015). This respite ended in 2015 and by 2017, an estimated 300,000 to 500,000 Rohingya refugees were in Bangladesh. Most of the refugees are located along the Teknaf-Cox’s Bazar highway that is parallel to the Naf River, which is the border between Bangladesh and Myanmar. Most of the refugees are located in or near Cox’s Bazar, a coastal area dependent upon tourism. An estimated 200,000+ refugees are living unregistered in Bangladesh (France-press agence, 2015).

As of 11 January, 2018, the Bangladeshi Immigration and Passports Department has registered 971,627 people through biometric registration (CPD, 2018). Recently, the plights of the Muslim Rohingya refugees have caught the attention of the world community. Suddenly hundreds of thousands people from neighboring Myanmar State were fleeing by boat through Naf River, which is the common coastal area between Bangladesh and Myanmar, into the south coasts of Bangladesh, particularly, St. Martin Island, Teknaf, Shahpori Island and Cox’s Bazar areas because of persecution (Haque, 2012). A state of emergency was declared in Rakhine on June 2012 after deadly clashes between the Buddhist and the Muslim communities. Violence flared after the rape and murder of a Buddhist woman in May 2012, followed by an attack on a bus carrying Muslims. Communal unrest continued for weeks as Muslims and Buddhists were engaged in attacks and reprisals, leaving many dead and forcing thousands of people on both sides to flee their homes (BBC, 2012). According to the Myanmar government, 211 people had been killed in Rakhine since June 2012; although *Rohingya* activists estimated the number to be closer to 1,000. There were 140,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) 94% of whom were Muslims (O’Sullivan, 2013).

Research Question

This study aims to assess the threats to environment and public health in Cox’ Bazar of Bangladesh posed by Rohingya influx. This study intends to establish the following: (1)

Unraveling the Rohingya crisis -- How are Rohingya crises on environment and public health spreading in Cox's Bazar and how are the Rohingya refugee crises viewed on Bangladesh perspective? (2) How can the Rohingya crisis on environment and public health be overcome?

Methodology of the study

In this study, review (systematic review) method has been applied to collect secondary data, identify and critically appraise relevant research and to collect report and analyze data from the studies that are included in the review (USC Libraries). Purposively, the researchers conducted a comprehensive search of Google, Google Scholar from 1993 to 2017 for identifying maximum number of primary sources. In each search, the usage of two or more relevant keywords such as 'rohingya people', 'refugee', 'environmental threat' and gathered 29 primary literature including books (06), journal articles (02), conference proceedings (03), online newspapers (08), Online Library (01) and reports (09) in the review process. Two authors independently reviewed and screened the titles and abstracts for eligibility and subsequently examined the full texts of the articles.

Literature Review

Rahman (2010, p. 234) examines the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh through the lens of being a security concern, and argues that they are a 'potential threat to Bangladesh's internal stability and a source of interstate tension between Myanmar and Bangladesh'. One of the main issues is the spread of Islamic militants, as Rohingya refugee camps have previously been fertile grounds for recruitment by extremists. Moreover, the Rohingya Solidarity Organization (RSO) is said to be training Islamic militants across Bangladesh and have expanded their own operations into Bangladesh. Rohingya refugees crossing the border from Myanmar are also used by arms and drug smugglers to traffic across the border, with the large numbers helping to evade detection (Rahman, 2010). From an economic perspective, Bangladesh is a relatively poor country facing chronic poverty and high population density and the influx of Rohingya refugees, mainly to the poorest areas in Bangladesh, willing to work for lower wages has a negative impact on the labor market and creates tensions between the local population and the refugees.

A situation exacerbated by many Rohingya leaving refugee camps, or being denied access, and working illegally (Parnini, Othman, & Ghazali, 2013). With the extremely high number of refugees that cross the border at one time, there is a competition for the limited resources available. This also leads to the destruction of forests and plantations, which creates tension between the local and refugee populations (Rahman, 2010). Additionally, the significant number of Rohingya refugees leads to inflation in food and housing in an already impoverished area, as there is not enough of either available for the larger population (Yee, 2017). Finally, there is the dynamic where the host country does not want the Rohingya to settle and integrate, but rather want them to eventually be repatriated to Myanmar, as happened in the early 2000s, which adds to the securitization of the refugees (Rahman, 2010). In Bangladesh the main political parties compete with each other in arguing for tough refugee and asylum policies, whilst the host community thinks that refugees in the camps

are provided with better services and take locals' jobs (UNHCR, 2011). Moreover, those fleeing to Bangladesh from conflict in Myanmar are not considered as refugees and thus are not protected under international refugee law.

In the broader region, under ASEAN and the Bali Process refugees are framed within a security/border control paradigm. Focusing on 'securitizing' migration through eliminating human smuggling and trafficking they encourage states to consider refugees as the responsibility of the developed world. The 'irregular migrant' label is used by states to avoid their obligations to displaced persons such as with the Rohingya, and also makes the securitization of refugees an easier process (Kneebone, 2016). Unrecognized as refugees in Bangladesh, Rohingya's statelessness and lack of recognition as citizens either in Myanmar or Bangladesh makes it difficult to address their plight as refugees (Cheung, 2012).

Ethical Consideration

The study has been conducted on the basis of systematic review technique. The researchers did not plagiarize any portion from the selected books, journal article, reports, conference proceedings, and newspapers or anywhere else in this study rather they have paraphrased as per requirement. Even, the researchers have not analyzed such data that will be precarious for anybody or organization. In essence, the researchers have followed complete research ethics to conduct this study.

Limitations of the Study

Though the researchers found some limitations in respect of conducting the study, they tried to their level best to get over those limitations with patience. The limitations perceived while conducting the study are mentioned as following;

1. As this study has been conducted on the basis of systematic review, all the data used here have been collected from secondary sources and that is why, researchers are not ensuring full accuracy of data.
2. This issue-based research has rarely been conducted that is why the researchers could not get sufficient data as expected.
3. Some websites are restricted to visit except payment that was another pitfall to collect data.

Analysis of the findings

The current Rohingya refugee crisis, one of the biggest humanitarian crises in recent times, in Bangladesh poses security threats and challenges on human or non-traditional security like environmental and health security. Over the months since the outset of the Rohingya influx, this has been the world's fastest growing refugee crisis, with tens of thousands fleeing by land and sea from Myanmar daily at the peak of the emergency. Some 671,000 Rohingya refugees have arrived in Bangladesh since 25th August 2017. The Bangladesh Government and Bangladeshi people have responded with extraordinary generosity and hospitality (UNHCR, 2018). The pertinent issue is the danger of widespread environmental degradation

due to the settlement of the refugees in areas close to hills and forest lands. Clearing of forest land, overexploitation of natural resources to support the livelihoods of the refugees will have serious consequences on the local environment (The Daily Sun, 2017).

In the United Nations Environmental Program formally recognizes that a broad range of environmental disasters can also generate refugees (Westing 1992). Such refugees are the victims of long-term mismanagement of nature by humans, including soil erosion; global warming; toxic contamination of air, water, soil and the food chain; deforestation and desertification (Kreimer and Munashinghe 1991; Gadgil and Guha 1995, Leiderman 1995). About 4000 acre hilly tracts is already cut down to construct Rohingya camps. In total, including the surrounded area of these hills, the occupied land is about 10000 acres for their accommodation (MoE, 2018). According to the local environmentalists, the intensive land degradation is going to be happened through such accommodation process of Rohingya, which would possibly a significant reason of the prospective environmental disaster occurred by the soil erosion process. Two thousand acres of new land are also asked for a new demand for Rohingyas accommodation in the next few months. Indigenous and local people fear the severe environmental disaster in the area, due to cutting of this huge amount hills and trees (The Independent, 2017).

Moreover, the newly arrived Rohingya refugees have cost Bangladesh more than Taka 1.5 billion worth of forests (Ministry of Environment, 2017). Wood collected from protected forest reserves is the main source of cooking fuel for refugees. Burning firewood desperately by them in Ukhaia, Teknaf and Naikhangchhari will destroy the ecosystem deeply (CPD, 2018). Even they are regularly picking up roots of trees which can cause mudslides. The government has allocated more than 3,000 acres of land belonging to the Department of Forests (DoF) for accommodating Rohingya refugees (DoF, 2017). So far, 3,500 acres of forest land has been destroyed in setting up the makeshift camps. Taka 315 million (3.15 crore) has been allocated to erect fences in the makeshift camps in Cox's Bazar (The Financial Express, 2017).

Even they were building their tents in two to three kilometer deep of the forest from the Cox's Bazar-Teknaf Road and fetch their firewood from the deep and fresh forest. This huge number of Rohingya is almost burning 50,000kg of firewood for cooking every day (Dhaka Tribune, 2017). They are mainly relying on the forest around the area of their camps. As a result, the forests are being destroyed every day. Now Rohingya are collecting and burning firewood to the stove in the morning and evening which is being collected from the forest (Dhaka Tribune, 2017). It is not an easy matter to provide the firewood for the huge number of Rohingya entrants as there is a lot of demand of firewood which is increasing day by day. They are regularly meeting their needs of the firewood by cutting forests and social forestry trees.

The way they started damaging forests, there would be an environmental disaster very soon (Dhaka Tribune, 2017). Felling trees on hilly forest land, Rohingya refugees have set up makeshift homes in Palongkhali of Ukhaia Upazila in Cox's Bazar. To collect firewood, they are now razing forests around five kilometres away from their dwelling place, putting the environment at risk. Around 4,000 acres of forestland in and around Kutupalong and Balukhali of Ukhaia has been destroyed to build makeshift home and collect firewood until this March (Divisional Forest Office, 2018). Another issue is that 26,000 hectares of

forestland within the 10-kilometres radius of the Rohingya camps would be destroyed in a year if the Rohingyas were not provided with alternative fuel for cooking. Even, destruction was seen even within two kilometres of the Inani Beach (UNDP, 2018). The Rohingyas need 2,200 metric tons of firewood every day for cooking meals and currently the only choice they have is to cut down trees from nearby forests and hills. Failing to secure spots at the registered camps, the Myanmar nationals set up around 200,000 makeshift tents mostly in the Ukhia Upazila (RRRC, 2018).

The influx of the Rohingyas since August 2017 has resulted in enormous amount of deforestation to accommodate the Rohingyas. It is estimated that 6000 acres of land was deforested by the Rohingya camps (CPD, 2018). CPD has estimated the cost of this deforestation. Four types of costs are taken into consideration for this exercise. These are (i) loss of timber and fuel wood ;(ii)loss of carbon stock; (iii) loss of non-timber forest products (NTFPs); and (iv) loss of fodder yield. The estimation shows that the total value of 6,000 acres of deforested land in the Rohingya camps is equivalent to Taka 741.31 crore or USD 86.67 million (CPD, 2018). Due to the large influx of the Rohingya refugees, many fail to find accommodation within the camps. As a result, many of them have spread out in the nearby hills. They have resorted to wide spread deforestation, causing severe degradation of the locality. Major shelter materials, except bamboo, are tar Pauline and aluminum and bamboo. Plastic containers were found to be used to supply drinking water to the Rohingya camps. Concern regarding their impact on the environment is high since these items are non-biodegradable (CPD, 2018).

Bangladesh is already vulnerable to the environmental challenges. The country now is facing a new threat from human induced degradation of the environment that can have a long term impact on our environmental security (UNHCR, 2017). On the contrary, Refugees arriving in the camps in Bangladesh are living in subhuman conditions without access to adequate hygienic facilities (Bhattacharjee, 2017). The health conditions of thousands of migrants in the camps are not documented. Many of the arriving refugees are already carrying a number of diseases, including TB, skin diseases and HIV/AIDS etc. These epidemic diseases could overwhelm the health service resources in the refugee camps, also poses a risk of spreading among the general population within Bangladesh as refugees continue to move from one place to another for work. The absence of the safe drinking water might contribute to Diarrhea and Cholera that could spread to the local population (Bhattacharjee, 2017).

Due to a large population of Rohingyas inhabiting a small area, disease has spread easily in refugee camps. As of 12 November 2017, diphtheria killed nine Rohingyas and infected about 700 others (Prothom Alo, 2017). The health risks of inhaling smoke from cooking inside poorly ventilated shelters; the physical demands of firewood collection; and a lack of separate bathing and toilet facilities for women (CPD, 2018). According to one of the NGOs working on WASH, each latrine is dedicated for 10 families (60 people) while each of their tube-well is placed for 50 families. 749,107 people are provided with WASH assistance (CPD, 2018). The existing public health conditions in the camps are unsatisfactory due to poor sanitation facilities, poor water quality, space limitation and increased population. Concerns exist regarding the latrine consisting 2-3 rings which get filled up fast (CPD, 2018). Families often show reluctance to accept new and better latrines because they believe the new ones would be like the old ones.

Notwithstanding, open defecation is likely to arise in future which will increase the risk of diseases. Placement of the tube-wells also raises concerns because some of the implementers have installed shallow ones at a low height (30-40feet) (CPD, 2018). This means they will become useless after sometime since they will not reach the groundwater. Hence, scarcity of safe drinking water is likely to arise. The children in the camps either have no shoes or do not want to wear them at all. Hence, there is a high risk of diseases (CPD, 2018). Moreover, the makeshift shelters do not have any windows. With cooking done mostly indoors, the risk of respiratory infection is high (CPD, 2018).

Conclusion

Bangladesh is globally recognized as an environmentally vulnerable country and the mentioned activities will further degrade the environment and make the country more environmentally vulnerable. The Rohingya situation on environment and public health is urgent and complex. In order to save them from pollution, the refugees need to be moved out to an island or they must be provided with alternative options in the camps. Refugees need to use firewood for cooking, and all the forests will be cleared if they don't have an alternative method. Offering them gas cylinders would be an option. The government should continue to register these refugees (old and new) and provide them biometric identity card. All these people should be sheltered in officially-administered locations so that the government can keep track of them and exploitation of these helpless people by vested interests. The Rohingyas with diseases should be identified and kept them in a separate place for treatment so that other people do not get affected. They should be provided proper contraceptives so that overgrowth of children gets lessened. Local people should be restricted to mingle freely with Rohingya even they should be imposed of law. Keeping the refugees in a controlled area, properly registering them, engaging the international community and raising the issue in international forums like the UN, ASEAN and Commonwealth for implementation of the recently signed agreement on the repatriation of the Rohingya between Bangladesh and Myanmar are the need of the hour. Another solution to save the forest is to supply them gas cylinders. Forest Department and the local people should jointly manage the forest resources under agreement. Bangladesh will have to convince the international community to put pressure on Myanmar to resolve the Rohingya refugee problem that Bangladesh has been carrying for the last 20 years without any foreseeable economic and social benefits whatsoever. Our decision makers should be more cautious in their decision making by drawing a mindset to the links between the environment and refugee management. Country has to enact a strong domestic legislation on the refugee and the immigration law, which may restrict the flow of refugees.

Reference

- BBC News Asia (2012). Retrieved from <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-19092131>, on 6 January 2018.
- Bhattacharjee, A. (2017). *Rohingya Crisis : Policy Options and Analysis*. Bangladesh Institute of Peace and Security Studies (BIPSS), Dhaka, Bangladesh. Retrieved from <http://bipss.org.bd/pdf/Rohingya-Policy%20Brief.pdf>. On 17 July, 2018
- Cheung, S. (2012). 'Migration Control and the Solutions Impasse in South and Southeast Asia: Implications from the Rohingya Experience'. *Journal of Refugee Studies*, 25(1), 50-70. doi:10.1093/jrs/fer048
- CPD. (2018). *Implications of the Rohingya Crisis for Bangladesh*. Humanitarian Report by Center for Policy Dialogue. Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- CPD. (2018). Annual Report published by Center for Policy Dialogue, Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- Dhaka Tribune. (2017) Retrieved from <https://www.dhaka.tribune.com/bangladesh/nation/2017/10/29/rohingya-camps-deforestation-takes-back-seat-humanitarian-concerns/> accessed at 7 July, 2018.
- Divisional Forest Office. (2018). Official Document of the Divisional Forest Office, Cox'sbazar, Bangladesh.
- EU Commission. (2017). Annual Report published by European Commission, Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- France-Presse Agence. (2015). Bangladesh plans to move Rohingya refugees to island in the south. *The Guardian*. ISSN 0261-3077. Retrieved from <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/may/28/bangladesh-plans-to-move-rohingya-refugees-to-island-in-the-south>, on 29 July, 2018.
- Gadgil M, Guha R. (1995). *Ecology and equity: The Use and Abuse of Nature in contemporary India*. London : Routledge
- Imran, F. H. Al, & Mian, N. (2014). The Rohingya Refugees in Bangladesh: A Vulnerable Group in Law and Policy. *Journal of Studies in Social Sciences*, 8(2), 226–253.
- Khan, T. I. (2018). Implications of the Rohingya Crisis for Bangladesh An Overview of the Recent Crisis and Influx to Bangladesh, (January). Retrieved from <https://cpd.org.bd/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/presentation-Implications-of-the-RohingyaCrisis-for-Bangladesh.pdf>
- Kneebone, S. (2016). Comparative regional protection frameworks for refugees: norms and norm entrepreneurs. *The International Journal of Human Rights*, 20(2), 153-172. doi:10.1080/13642987.2016.1141499
- Kreimer A, Munasinghe M. (1991). *Managing Natural Disasters and the Environment*. World Bank: Washington, DC.
- Leiderman S.M. (1995). Environmental refugees. *Encyclopedia of the Future*. New York : Macmillan.
- Larry, T. (2005), Bangladesh: Burmese Rohingya refugee's virtual hostages. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int/report/myanmar/bangladesh-burmese-rohingya-refugees-virtual-hostages>, accessed 6 June, 2018
- Ministry of Environment and Forests. (2018). Report on Environmental Impact of Rohingya Influx, 1–3.
- O'Sullivan, K. (2013). The Plight of Refugee: The Uncertain Future of Rohingya Refugees. Retrieved from <http://www.fairobserver.com/article/uncertain-future-rohingya-refugees>. On 06 January 2018.
- Parnini, S. N., Othman, M. R., & Ghazali, A. S. (2013). The Rohingya Refugee Crisis and

- Bangladesh-Myanmar Relations. *Asian and Pacific Migration Journal*, 22(1), 133-146. doi:10.1177/011719681302200107
- Prothom Alo. (2018). Retrieved from <http://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/news/167817/Diphtheria-kills-nine-Rohingya-people>. on 20 July, 2018.
- Rahman, U. (2010). The Rohingya Refugee: A Security Dilemma for Bangladesh. *Journal of Immigrant & Refugee Studies*, 8(2), 233-239. doi:10.1080/15562941003792135
- RRRC. (2018). Report of The refugee relief and repatriation commission (RRRC) in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh.
- The Daily Sun. (October 2017). Retrieved from <http://daily-sun.com/printversion/details/258433/Rohingya-Crisis:-Can-Bangladesh-Meet-the-Challenges> accessed at 20 July, 2018).
- The Financial Express. (2017). Retrieved from <http://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/views/views/influx-of-rohingya-refugees-entails-a-serious-burden-on-the-economy-1513519560> accessed at 17 July 2018
- The Independent. (2017). Retrieved from <http://www.theindependentbd.com/printversion/details/118497> accessed at 17 July, 2018.
- UCA news.com. (2017). Retrieved from <https://www.ucanews.com/news/hcalth-environmental-disasters-huge-for-new-rohingya-camp/80463> accessed at 3 July, 2018.
- Uddin, M. S. (2017). Comparing the Impacts of Local People and Rohingya Refugees on Teknaf Game Reserve.
- UNDP. (2018). Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int/report/bangladesh/report-environmental-impact-rohingya-influx-executive-summary> accessed at 11 July, 2018).
- UNHCR. (2011). States of denial: A review of UNHCR's response to the protracted situation of stateless Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh. UNHCR Report: Geneva. Retrieved from: http://www.netipr.org/policy/downloads/20111201_UNHCR-states-of-denial.pdf
- UNHCR. (2017). "This is our home". Stateless minorities and their search for citizenship. Retrieved from <http://www.unhcr.org/ibelong/stateless-minorities/> accessed at 7 July, 2018
- UNHCR. (2018). UN launches 2018 appeal for Rohingya refugees and Bangladeshi host communities. Retrieved from <http://www.unhcr.org/ibelong/stateless-minorities/> accessed at 7 October, 2018.
- USC Libraries. (2018). Organizing Your Social Sciences Research Paper: 5: the Literature Review. Retrieved from <http://libguides.usc.edu/writingguide/literaturereview>, accessed on 29 July, 2018.
- Watkins, R. (2018). Report of the United Nations in Bangladesh. October 8, Dhaka.
- Westing, A.H. (1992). Environmental refugees: a growing category of displaced sons. *Environmental Conservation* 19 (Autumn): 201-207.
- Yee, T. H. (2017). Nobody's people: Uncertain future for Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh. *The Strait Times*. Retrieved from: <http://www.straitstimes.com/asia/south-asia/nobodys-people-uncertain-future-for-rohingya-refugees-in-bangladesh>.